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about...  
kitchen  
cabinets**  
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Three families celebrate their kitchens' return by cooking up favorite dishes for their first post-remodel repast. Find their stories—and their recipes—in our new column.



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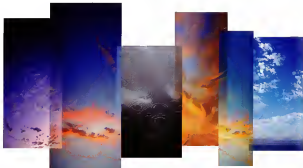
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## What's cooking?

I had my **boobs on** and my **shorts off**, holding a frying pan high above my head, and I'm sure I heard it loud and clear.

Umm, the noise could have been squeaking on floor, but this midnight visitor to our temporary kitchen seemed too bold to be afraid. He'd already chewed through a full pouch of *Achete* rice, a cellophane bag of potatoes, and the lumber of my wife's pocketbook. (She'd been hiding a candy bar—from it or me, I'm not really sure.)

In hopes of flushing the little intruder out, I thrust a loaf of French bread at the crackler box he was hiding behind. The loaf ripped, he sprang out, leaped right, then went left over the sink shaker. I swung the frying pan, smacking him but knocking the salt into space and onto the floor. He raced between some bowls, hurdled a spatula, dodged the pepper mill, and then leapt, in what at the time seemed like a triumphant slow-motion movie scene, from the counter to the little electric stove, just one of its burners, and down into the stove's maw. Gone.

Yes, it was the first time I'd come face-to-face with the intruder in the cook space we'd cobbling together upstairs during our kitchen remodel, but it wasn't the only time I'd been haunted by a rodent. In addition to the mouse, there was the rat—our no-account contractor. I would have taken a frying pan to him, too, especially after he'd decided that, no, he really couldn't figure out why the temporary sink leaked, and, yes, we would have to do our dishes in the lovely tub—for six months, which became a year. But he had a rat gun.

Anyway, as you can see from the photo, those days are all in the past. Now that our dream kitchen is complete, all the worst memories have faded. Our anxiety that won't fade, though, is the fine supper my wife and I had on our brand-new kitchen: an exquisite salad dressed with olive oil, salt, and shaved Parmesan; herb-roasted chicken and crushed hot pepper; a ragoût with fresh onions and herbs from the garden; and, of course, a bottle of wine.

Times, that's why we do these kitchen remodels, right? To enjoy the cooking, the family time, the entertaining in a special space. I know that's true of most TGH readers, which is why this month we're inaugurating a new column called, appropriately enough, *Post Supper* (page 62). So it, these TGH readers just like you tell us how they celebrated their remodels, right down to the family recipes. I think it's a great peek at how we live today and a great complement to the remodeling advice TGH offers. Tell me what you think at [scott@thisoldhouse.com](http://scott@thisoldhouse.com).

Scott O'Connell  
SCOTT O'CONNELL, EDITOR  
[scott@thisoldhouse.com](http://scott@thisoldhouse.com)

## letter { from This Old House }



[Before]

### MORE TOH+

Architects' picks, websites, and TV shows that go in-depth TGH for you? Good news!

We've just published two new books: *Easy Upgrades: Bath* and *Fun Family Projects*. See the announcement on page 34 and pick two up at your local bookstore.

Kwikset

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## readermail [September 10]

We received lots of inquiries from folks who wanted to copy the beautiful vegetable garden featured in May's "Plant, Grow, Enjoy," but one reader had already taken matters into her own (well, actually her mate's) hands as seen below. And a couple of readers shared their insights about June articles:



### Remodel of a classic

I was delighted to read "Small Town, Lots More Freedom" (June). It profiled a quasi-annual Scheffer house, a near-duplicate of the one Alfred Scheffer built in the '40s for himself and his wife. Being their niece by marriage, I have stayed in his house and can't say there is so much as a welcome sign in the details and amphory of his design that I never wanted to leave. Your article took me back there immediately. (Go to the Scheffer house in my story.)

### Straight cuts

Re Nanci's Trick of the Trade (June) about getting straight circular saw cuts: None overlooked me! My case of crooked cuts. I taught carpentry at a vocational school, and I can recall vividly how even a novice could cut respectably with a sharp blade, but once

the blade was dull, even using the factory rip gauge would not make an straight cut. —BRUCE LIGHE, FOUNTAINHEAD, PA.

### Corrections

• In June's "Farewell, Freen," page 16 we did not clarify that the only refrigerator being phased out is R-22, not other formats of Freen and generic equivalents. Our apologies for the editing error.

### how to reach us

The editor  
This Old House magazine  
120 West 10th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
Or mail: TOH, letter@  
thisoldhouse.com  
• Include your full name,  
address, and phone  
number. Published  
letters may be edited for  
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### reader project of the month



## Picture-perfect vegetable garden

—CHRISTOPHER BRYAN

I saw the second raised bed garden in the May issue—showed it to my husband, and he completed the project. I love this garden and wanted to share a picture of our new yard addition. Hoping to get a good crop of vegetables and herbs!



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# checklist [September 10]

## EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

### ✓ Hold a garage sale

September 10 is National Clean Out Your Garage Day, but anyone looks anything like cars, one day to tidy up is never enough. Instead, space out the task. Sort through boxes one week, clean the next, and organize tools and supplies the third. At the end, hold a garage sale to unload all your unwanted, gently used finds. You'll make extra money—and open up precious storage space.



### □ What's on your checklist?



"I'll be looking for cracks around my home's foundation where moisture could get in, and filling them with hydraulic cement."

—Hanna Portney  
Yonkers, N.Y.

E-mail us your ideas at [checklist@thisoldhouse.com](mailto:checklist@thisoldhouse.com).



### □ Deep-clean your bathroom

Summer humidity and steamy showers can turn a bathroom into a magnet for mold and mildew. To do a thorough cleaning, scrub tile with a nonabrasive cleanser, rinse. Wipe down grout with bleach, let dry, then coat with a penetrating sealer to combat stains. To prevent mildew, recaulk around fixtures, especially the tub—just be sure to fill it with water first to maximize the gap you need to fill.

### TOH TIP

### □ Service your leaf blower

Ready your leaf blower for a season's worth of fallen foliage with these steps. With the machine off and sparkplug unhooked, use a cloth to clean the fan blades and remove debris from the air intake. Replace or clean the sparkplug. Tuck the fuel tank with clean gasoline, and tighten any loose nuts and bolts.

### □ Weatherstrip windows and doors

Ward off chilly autumn winds by sealing air leaks. Carefully remove old weatherstripping from window and door frames with a utility knife (or sawsewer from your door's bottom) and replace with durable silicone strips. Need to start from scratch? Find instructions at [thisoldhouse.com/bonus](http://thisoldhouse.com/bonus).



### □ Plant late-fall veggies

Sad to see your garden grow dormant? Luckily, you can still sow vegetables such as spinach, lettuce, kale, and radishes through the end of September. Just plant seeds 1 inch deeper than you would in the spring to protect them from surprise early autumn hot spells. Once the plants sprout, insulate them during cold snaps by covering your plot with a piece of burlap held up by stakes.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW THOMPSON FOR THIS OLD HOUSE; GARDEN PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS FOR THIS OLD HOUSE; RADISHES BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS FOR THIS OLD HOUSE

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## What is polyurethane?

It's a kind of super-tough varnish formulated so that its microscopic chains of resin molecules will bond tightly with one another as it dries. The result is a finish that's much more resistant to water, solvents, abrasion, and impacts than traditional varnishes.

## Basic choices

### OIL, WATER, OR BOTH?

Restrictions on VOC emissions have spurred the development of alternatives to oil-based poly. Consider the different characteristics of each type before you buy.

• **Oil-based.** Turns slightly amber, which warms up wood's color. Forms a hard, durable film in a few coats. Dries a more slowly than water-based poly, so there's a longer wait between coats. Higher in VOCs than water-based finishes and therefore not available in all parts of the country. Cleans up with mineral spirits.

• **Water-based.** Looks like milk in the can but dries crystal-clear. Good if you're trying to preserve a wood's color. More watery than oil-based poly, so more coats are needed. Dries quickly. Lower in VOCs than oil-based finishes but stilling does good ventilation during application. Clean up with soap and water. Never use ammonia-based cleaners on the cured film.

• **Water-based oil-modified.** Appears cloudy in the can but dries to a tough, amber-colored film. Like oil, fast drying and compatible with all woods; cleans up with water. Has the same low VOC levels as water-based poly.

### GLOSS, SEMI-GLOSS, OR SATIN?

Choose whichever finish you like best; there is no difference in durability. Just remember that the glossier the finish, the more it will show any underlying imperfections and any future wear and tear.

### INSIDE OR OUT?

Most exterior poly can be used indoors, but interior poly should never be used outdoors. They lack the additives that protect exterior finishes from UV rays.

### BRUSH-ON, WIPE-ON, OR SPRAY?

Every poly has its preferred applicator, typically a brush or cloth. Some polys also come as aerosol spray cans.

• **Brush-on** polys work best on flat surfaces where it's important to build up a durable film. Brushes hold a lot of finish, so you can cover wide areas in one time you load the brush.

• **Wipe-on** polys are best for contoured surfaces—crown molding and stair balusters—where brushing might create drips. Wipe on a film thinner than brush on, so use them whenever you can't or don't want to.

• **Spray-on** polys come in handy on hard-to-reach surfaces, such as shutter louvers and chair spindles. Aerosol sprays require good technique to avoid drips and extra prep time to protect surfaces from overspray. Their thin films aren't as tough as the ones you brush on.



Some polys have oils that give wood a warm, amber tone.

If you want wood to keep its light color, use a water-based poly.

## 12 months

The length of time a poly should be usable after you open the can. Label the lid with the date it was unsealed.

## 1 teaspoon

To keep a partially filled can of oil-based poly from skinning over, cover the finish with this amount of mineral spirits.



## 1 pint

The approximate amount of poly you'll need to put three coats of finish on one chair.

## Pick the right poly

Each polypeurethane is unique, thanks to tweaks in its chemical makeup; choose the one that best matches your particular project.

### INTERIOR POLYS

#### Wipe-on

**GOOD FOR:** Carved, embossed, or profiled surfaces where a brush could leave drips. Also useful for hiding superficial scratches or previously finished wood. Its thin film offers immediate protection from abrasion. Available in gloss and satin sheens, and in oil-based and water-based oil-modified formulations. **APPLY WITH:** lint-free cloth. **NUMBER OF COATS:** Three. **HOURS BETWEEN COATS:** 2 to 3. **VOCs:** 580 grams per liter for oil-based, 270 grams per liter for water-based oil-modified.

#### Shain-and-poly combo (oil-based)

**GOOD FOR:** Furniture, cabinets, trim. Stains and protects bare wood with each coat. Before applying to bare wood, use a wood conditioner to ensure a even color. Smooth between coats with 0000 steel wool. Available in satin and gloss. **APPLY WITH:** natural-bristle brush. **NUMBER OF COATS:** Two. **HOURS BETWEEN COATS:** 6. **VOCs:** 450 grams per liter (270 in Southern California).

#### High-build (oil-based)

**GOOD FOR:** Tabletops and other surfaces subject to abrasion. Provides maximum durability with just two coats. Apply the coats to prevent drips and wrinkles from forming. Available in gloss, semi-gloss, and satin. **APPLY WITH:** natural-bristle brush. **NUMBER OF COATS:** Two. **HOURS BETWEEN COATS:** 4 to 6. **VOCs:** 350 grams per liter.

#### Fast-drying (oil-based)

**GOOD FOR:** Cabinets, floors, furniture, and trim that can't wait much when abrasion resistance and durability are important. This variable oil around poly

provides good protection on a variety of wood surfaces. Available in gloss, semi-gloss, and satin. **APPLY WITH:** natural-bristle brush or a can of aerosol spray. **NUMBER OF COATS:** Two to three. **HOURS BETWEEN COATS:** 4 to 6. **VOCs:** 450 grams per liter.

#### Water-based

**GOOD FOR:** Light-colored woods and stains where ambering would be undesirable. Blended with acrylic resins, it goes on milky but quickly dries crystal-clear. Not as durable as oil-based polys. Available in gloss, semi-gloss, and satin. **APPLY WITH:** synthetic filament brush or a can of aerosol spray. **NUMBER OF COATS:** Three. **HOURS BETWEEN COATS:** 2. **VOCs:** 275 grams per liter.

#### Water-based oil-modified

**GOOD FOR:** Doors, cabinets, furniture, and floors. Combines the durability and ambering of an oil with the fast-drying time. Low VOC content; extremely cleaning in water-based product. Available in gloss, semi-gloss, and satin. **APPLY WITH:** synthetic filament brush or a can of aerosol spray. **NUMBER OF COATS:** Three. **HOURS BETWEEN COATS:** 2. **VOCs:** 275 grams per liter.

### EXTERIOR POLYS

#### Spar urethane

**GOOD FOR:** Exterior doors, trim, and furniture. Contains UV absorbers that protect the finish and the wood from the sun's rays. Made with a special blend of oils and resins that allows it to flex as the wood surface expands and contracts. Repeat the finish when it turns dull, typically once a year. Available in gloss, semi-gloss, and satin, and in oil-based and water-based formulas.



**Oil-based spar urethane** **APPLY WITH:** natural-bristle brush or a can of aerosol spray. **NUMBER OF COATS:** Three. **HOURS BETWEEN COATS:** 4. **VOCs:** 450 grams per liter.

**Water-based spar urethane** **APPLY WITH:** synthetic filament brush or a can of aerosol spray. **NUMBER OF COATS:** Four. **HOURS BETWEEN COATS:** 2. **VOCs:** 275 grams per liter.

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## Polyurethane Dos & Don'ts

In addition to reading the directions on the can, keep these basics in mind.

### DO

#### Test the old finish

Acetone-based nail polishremover softens lacquer. Water drops turn white within about 10 minutes. If either lacquer or wax are present, strip them before proceeding.

**Stir the can.** Do this before and during application to evenly blend the ingredients that control sheen and UV resistance.

**Apply thin coats.** Thick coats take longer to dry and are more likely to drip or wrinkle.

**Sand between coats.** Using 220 grit paper helps ensure good adhesion and smooths away imperfections.

**Wipe after sanding.** Dust adheres with adhesives and reveals unsightly bumps in the finish. Use a cloth dampened with mineral spirits on oil-based finishes, use a water-dampened cloth on water-based finishes. A dry microfiber cloth also works well with both finishes.



### DON'T

#### Shake the can

Shaking creates bubbles, which leave a rough, pitted surface. It's okay to shake vigorously on trips, however.

#### Thin the first coat

Thinning doesn't improve adhesion, and you'll have to apply more coats and use more solvent.

**Use tack cloths.** Some contain chemicals that prevent good adhesion.

**Wax the finish.** Wax isn't durable and will interfere with any subsequent coats.



## Application tips

### When working with any finish...

#### CHOOSE THE RIGHT BRUSH

Use natural bristle for oil-based finishes and synthetic Monofilament (polyester, nylon, or a blend of the two) for water-based and water-based oil-modified finishes. Don't use rollers or foam brushes—they create bubbles.

#### DAMPEN THE BRUSH WITH A SOLVENT

Your brush will be easier to clean, and will go longer between cleanings. If using a solvent, dip the brush in the solvent, wipe it off, and use it to apply the finish. If using a water-based finish, use a water-based solvent. Before using the brush, rapidly roll the handle between your hands to create a conditioned box to eliminate excess.

#### POUR SOME FINISH INTO A CLEAN CONTAINER

Working from a separate container prevents the dust and other particles picked up by the brush from contaminating the finish in the can.

#### TAP, DON'T WIPE

After dipping about one-third of the brush into the finish, gently tap it against the inside of the container. Scrape the bristles over the edge of a container to leave the brush loaded to apply a coat of the right thickness.

#### ALWAYS BRUSH OR WIPE WITH THE GRAIN

It's the best way to work the finish into the wood pores and ensure an even appearance.

### When working with water-based finishes...

#### DAMPEN THE WOOD FIRST

Wipe the wood with a damp cloth to raise the fibers; after the surface dries, knock them back with 220-grit sandpaper.

#### APPLY AND MOVE ON

Too much brushing creates these fast-drying poly rough and ragged.

#### DON'T SMOOTH WITH STEEL WOOL

It leaves a behind tiny bits of steel that you can't see—until they rust. Use sandpaper instead.



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## homenews (September 10)

Here's another winner of our 2010 Best Old-House Neighborhoods contest



Springfield, MA (19th-century Gothic Revival style house, built by the architect of the White House)

This Old House  
**2010**  
Best Old-House  
Neighborhoods

### Forest Park Heights Springfield, Massachusetts

- Borders a 136-acre city park
- Surprisingly affordable homes
- Beautifully restored living right in the heart of the city

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD** The Forest Park Heights Historic District is home to nearly 600 of western Massachusetts' finest houses. The neighborhood was developed in the 1890s when an electric trolley system connected downtown Springfield to the park. Over the next 30 years, the neighborhood became the exclusive province of the city's most important businessmen, bankers and civic leaders.

**THE HOUSES** The neighborhood boasts a mix of Dutch Colonial, Gothic Revival, Tudor Revival, Queen Anne, Craftsmen and Shingle Style homes dating from the

early 1900s. A 3,800-square-foot Colonial recently sold here for just \$200,000.

**WHY BUY NOW?** Affordability is the draw here. As the economy takes its toll, the area has remained relatively stable middle-to-upper middle class neighborhood. Many who live here have come from other markets, including, Northampton and Boston, seeking less costly old homes with tons of character. Check out [choicerealestate.com](http://choicerealestate.com), a website featuring all of the overlooked city's amazing houses and neighborhoods.



PLenty of space: This Tudor is typical of the neighborhood's big, beautiful houses.

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the contest. Go to  
[theoldhouse.com/firstplace](http://theoldhouse.com/firstplace)



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# home solutions

Edited by Jessica Dade El Poler

inside

TUB MAKEOVER

KITCHEN HELPERS

10 USES

MORE



4 SMART IDEA

## Your photos on fabric

Extend the warm-weather season with images of your garden printed on pillows—or personalize your place with any photos you choose. It's a snap to do: Take high-resolution digital photos (at least 150 dpi) of a relevant subject, crop them to your liking, then upload them to an online fabric printer, such as Karna Kraft (karna-kraft.com), Spoonflower (spoonflower.com), or Fabric on Demand (fabric-on-demand.com). The company will transfer the images onto a stencil of your choice and either send you postage to stick up yourself or, in the case of the Karna Kraft pillows shown here, supply the required covers. Either way, you've got a picture-perfect addition to your room.

Custom-printed cotton pillow covers: from left, 26-inch square \$23, 18-inch square \$17, 12-inch square \$16, karnakraft.com



COURTESY, KARNAKRAFT (PHOTOS BY JESSICA DADE EL POLER)

## UPGRADE

## Gussy up a claw-foot

There's a lot to love about an old-fashioned cast-iron tub. But if you don't love what the paint has done to your antique soaker's exterior—or just want to introduce a vibrant color to your bathroom. While reglazing the interior's porcelain is a project best left to the pros, you can easily refinish the outside of your tub in less than a day. First, scrub the surface with a stiff wire brush, removing any flaking paint. Then, using a mixed-bristle brush or 4-inch foam roller, apply an oil-based primer formulated for metal. Let dry 6 to 8 hours, and brush on a bright, oil-based enamel or epoxy (wood latex paint, as it can cause your tub to rust.) If a second coat is needed, wait 24 hours before applying. Then get set to soak in your bathing beauty.—ELIZABETH ROSSIGNOL



The right formula is everything. Rust-Oleum metal primer: \$30 per quart; and enamel: \$20 per 2 quarts. oil-based enamel

## PROBLEM SOLVERS

## Clever little kitchen tools

Proving that practical doesn't have to mean stodgy, these three kitchen wonders make mundane tasks a breeze—and their fresh designs mean you won't mind showing them off on your counter.—NATASHA RODRIGUEZ



## Easy clean windows

Gunky sponges be gone! The silicone sponge—and even a bristling brush to remove flexible, heat-resistant silicone beads that can be removed for washing. \$12–\$15 each. [kicart.com](http://kicart.com)



## Mount chatter

Make quick work of tomatoes, garlic, and more with this genius food processor stand-in that you operate with a sitting-pull mechanism. \$30. [kicart.com](http://kicart.com)



## Bread bag cinchers

Keep baked goods fresh and bagged frozen foods tightly sealed with these cheerful, fold-flat clips to fit these openings.



## reader tip

THE CHAIRS, SOMEVILLE, NH

To prevent a drawer pull from coming loose and wiggling around, I borrow my girlfriends' clear nail polish and apply it to the threads before tightening the knob.

## SHARE YOUR TIPS

Post tips at [thisoldhouse.com/tips](http://thisoldhouse.com/tips)

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**1 Build a drying rack.** Hammer multiple nails at the same length into a thin board, then dip it over. Rest a freshly painted or glued item on the nail points so that it doesn't stick to your work surface.

## nails

We've all got stray boxes of these fasteners scattered throughout the garage. Don't let them rust away—they can do more than join lumber and hang stuff.



### 2 Hoe soil.

Hammer short nails into the top of a rubber groud float to make a mini taker for shallow seed planting or breaking up soil.

### 3 Add detail to painted items.

When wallpapering, wallpapering and other

turned pieces, use the point of a nail to remove any paint in the recesses.

### 4 Space deck boards.

Establish proper drainage gaps by placing 35d nails between deck boards as you fasten them.

### 5 Form hooks.

Bend finishing nails into an S shape with pliers, and hang items from them on a pegboard.

### 6 Remove crumbling grout.

Before regrouting, use scrub away the old, stained

tile and chip out any crumbling pieces with the tip of a nail.

### 7 Trim accessories.

Imitate the look of hammered furniture tackle—on a smaller scale—by unknocking short wire nails in a row along the edge of a wood mirror or picture frame.

### 8 Make a sprinkler or soaker hose.

Use a nail to poke tiny holes in a hose, then unroll the hose through a flower bed.



**9 Create a compass.** Tie a pencil to a nail with string. Set the nail's point face down and pull the string taut to draw a perfect circle.

—JENNIFER STAMPSON



Sometimes your hands could use a hand.

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## PRODUCTS

## Workhorse radios

Who doesn't like their gear to be tough, reliable and portable? Noted with a heavy-duty design, these portable radios are often the first choice of anyone who likes any type of outdoor activity. They are rugged, feature clear displays and powerful speakers. They also include the ability to charge a cellular cell battery and built-in battery for powering a small device, like a cell phone. Here's a list of some of the best options for outdoor use, ranked by their Editors' Choice award. —J.D.P.



**120 watts**  
\$799-999

A 40-watt amplifier rocks this high-reception radio, which can talk off-horse or on horseback. It has a built-in speaker and a 3.5-inch screen. The screen also has a built-in display. The screen also has a built-in display. The screen also has a built-in display.

NOTED RESERVE



**120 watts**  
\$124.00

With this compact model, it's easy to take your radio to the next level. Using a remote control, you can turn it on or off, change the volume, and more. It's a great choice for anyone who wants a portable radio that's easy to use.

HOUSE OF MUSIC



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SHOUTING

## STORAGE

## Clean up your cabinets

Feel like you're losing the war against clutter? Then check out these nifty products that'll get common problem spots back in line. —J.D.P.



Thick up pots and pans. Instead of stacking precious towels of crockery down below, install pull-out racks that let you arrange pots and pans on their sides, securely from the side.

Shown: Row 4 Shelf's 21-inch Two-Tier Crockery Organizer, \$224; rev-a-shelf.com



Maximize drawerware. Can't find all your kitchenware with compact, modular trays that expand to fit your available space.

Shown: Puller's Expandable Cutlery Tray, \$5; at Walmart stores



Organize the pantry cupboard. The most prone-to-clutter domain in the kitchen? The pantry. Get it organized with this 25-pot pullout, a tubular unit that lets you access each food you use most on the top rack.

Shown: Knap & Vogt's Center Mount Roll-Out, from \$264; knapandvogt.com



Make use of a blind corner. Forget traditional bay corners or other of its adjustable version with a sliding shelf that swings out and slides from the corner to maximum storage.

Shown: KOL's National 100, \$229; kol.com

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(over water stains)

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1 COAT OF PAINT

(over water stains)



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before + after:  
 kitchen

## Modern space, old-world look

Amassing square footage from two small rooms and incorporating salvaged and distressed wood create a high-functioning kitchen that suits its vintage surroundings. **By** DIANE DALOWICH • **Photography** ESTHER LEE



[before]

Just because a kitchen renovation doesn't mean it has to look that way. During the four-year run-up to their redo, Jennifer and Benoit Nolin lusted for facadachos weathered by time—or by design. Their home's chilly white gallery was the last place the couple, both busy doctors and serious cooks, wanted to gravitate to with their two young kids. "We hated it—we bumped into each other all the time," Jennifer recalls. Porting colorful tilework and honey-colored woods more comparable with their 1940s Spanish Revival home in Santa Monica, California, they turned to architect Deborah L. Treister. They asked her to carve out space for a baker, a barbeque fanatic, and two junior apprentices—and to work in a pair of curved wood columns from Guatemala they'd spotted in an antique store. Treister and contractor Ben Nolin annexed space from two adjacent rooms to expand the kitchen to a 14-by-14 foot square—"large enough, but still cozy," as Treister put it—with an island big enough to do homework at one end and host a cake at the other. Distressed slider cabinets with painted brass pulls, redwood chevron flooring, and hand-glazed tile countertops to the rustic look. As for those columns, Treister used them to frame the opening between the kitchen and a new family room, adding extra. "The house was inspired by Spanish *casas*," says Jennifer. "And now you could say our kitchen was, too."

**BEFORE** The all-white gallery was clearly designed for a couple cook alike. Enlarged to a square and finished in warm tones, the kitchen has vintage style fits and enough storage and prep space for a couple of cooks, plus two kids and friends.

- The range backsplash was designed by homeowner Jennifer Melin with the help of software architect/maker's website, Tile, California Pottery and Tile Works. Range: Thermador
- With its extra elbow room and prep space, the kitchen is a natural gathering spot. Here, Ben and Melin's kids play with the help of Riley, 3, and Lisa, 9



## before

The 140-square-foot kitchen had a work area just 8 feet wide, with a wall table isolated at one end and no central prep or gathering spot.



## after

Enter, eat out (and equipped) in a 14-foot square. The kitchen is anchored by stainless-steel prep sink and stove.

1. Opened up the kitchen for the new family room, adding entry via a white passageway, instantly salvaged wood columns.

2. Put in an island that adds 70 feet<sup>2</sup> long where kids and guests can hang out—or watch tablet games at the prep side.



3. Added a second oven, a microwave and freezer drawers across from the range to help with more traffic jams during breakfast and prep.

4. Installed a double-hung with a tie-in to screen to control at a pass through for the outdoor barbecue and his kitchen staff.

5. Added more counter space with easy reach of the new sink and range.

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before • after: kitchen

## the key details

- An island topped with Inka's Wood Africa hardware offers a night line to light-filled dining area and a public display.
- Dead-glazed tile covers the room's southwest corner and adds the home's Spanish Revival-style charm.



### homeowner tip

BATHY WALSH  
SANTA MONICA, CALIF.

"Before building an island, be sure to measure all your clearances to ensure that you can get into the bridge without bumping into a barstool."



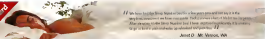
• Rustic materials with a warm, weathered finish include honed Italian Black granite counters, distressed and glazed locally sourced walters, and a dead-glazed tile backsplash. Other details include the home's Spanish Revival-style charm.

Install a backsplash  
Landscape and interior design firm  
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• Salvaged beams in the family room/office area tie it to the kitchen with its reclaimed wood floor. Mounting hardware by MountingDynamics.com

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## From ho-hum to handsome

A bland 1980s bath gets transformed into an elegant retreat with large-scale fixtures that make the room feel more expansive. **BY LARSEN PERD • Photographs by MATTHEW NORMAN**

Nothing speeds up the timeline for a bath redo like a shower leaking into the room below it. At least, that was the excuse for Martin Stock to finally tackle the master bath in his 1910 home in Wilmette, Illinois. Remodeled in the 1980s, the cluttered space was lined with bulky beige built-ins. "I just wanted to throw down granite in there and blow it up," he says. In its place he wanted a masculine bath that was more traditional gentleman's club than locker room. Turning to designer Karen Walker to come up with a plan, he presented her with magazine gags and offered up a piece of antique stained glass bought in London that she'd spotted in his dining room. That window found a home above a new claw-foot tub that also elongated ceiling height built on vanity and access from a new larger shower. Walker fit the new amenities within the original footprint, using the existing plumbing, knee-mount curves that allowed for high-end fixtures, such as custom cabinetry, an alabaster pedestal, and marble floor tile. The result is a vintage-style space that's stately but simple—and, of course, watertight.

**before** Ageless rents updated the space with beige beige built-ins. **after** Furnishings pieces create a well-appointed bath. Tub: Victoria & Albert; Pedestal: Monarch; Vanity: Kallio



Gray and flat painted stripes create a friendly, playful look and make window bath

## the key details

• A **hutchlike partition** adds storage and hides the toilet paper shelves. Keep the space open and airy. A gully glass door and built-in bench make the space feel like a spa.



• A **stained-glass window** hangs in a decorative recess in front of a new shower unit, keeping the bath's old-world feel. It's a gully lighting is minimal but throughout the room.



### homeowner tip

"Pick a small, meaningful item as the jumping-off point for your design. You already know you love it, and it will give the room an emotional focal point."



• **Marble slab** shower walls are easy to clean (no grout lines) and easy on the eyes. A floor-to-ceiling glass enclosure with a sleek design enhances the room's spacious feeling. Shower fixtures: Pottery Barn. Towel warmer: Artek. Towels: Pottery Barn.

• **Seosens** with square fixtures and a soft glow is brighter for shaving. (Seosens: Whitehall Lighting)



dozens more

Find lots of other bath design solutions at [houzz.com/bath](http://houzz.com/bath)

## before and after

An outdated layout cramped the 8-by-12-foot bath. Arranging generous-size fixtures opened the room, actually making the space feel bigger.

1. **Expanded the shower to 8 feet 8 inches by 3 feet 4 inches.** No longer tucked up against the built-in tub, it got an all-glass, doorless design that lights up the look.

2. **Replaced a half-wall** with a ceiling hutchlike unit with glass shelves that adds storage and screens the toilet.



3. **Turned the tub 45 degrees** to sit under a new, smaller window across from the shower. With a new glass-paned door, the tub's design gets plenty of light and more privacy.

4. **Went with a drip sink** where there was none. The built-in vanity has a leggy, open design that brings a clean, looking beauty.

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### IMPORTANT FACTS



(LIDR-01424)

#### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT LYRICA

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- Have any trouble breathing
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- New or worsening depression
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- Unusual changes in mood or behavior
- Do not stop LYRICA without your doctor's advice

LYRICA may cause swelling of your hands, legs and feet. This swelling can be a serious problem with people who have heart problems.

LYRICA may cause dizziness or sleepiness. Do not drive a car, work with tools or machinery, or do other dangerous things until you know how LYRICA affects you. Ask your doctor when it is okay to do these things.

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- Anticoagulants (blood thinners) (A/C's) medicines. They may have a higher chance for bleeding and bruising

#### BEFORE STARTING LYRICA, continued

• Alcohol. Drinking alcohol while taking LYRICA may increase the risk of dizziness or sleepiness. Tell your doctor if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Nausea, pain, weakness (such as exhaustion), tingling or numbness for many days (such as neuropathy). You may have a higher chance for dizziness and sleepiness
- Any medicines that make you sleepy

#### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF LYRICA

LYRICA may cause many side effects, including:

- See "Important Safety Information About LYRICA"
- Blurred vision, pain, burning or weakness along with tingling, numbness, or pain
- Possible problems including kidney stones
- Weight gain. Weight gain may affect control of diabetes and can be serious for people with heart problems
- Feeling "drunk"

If you have any of these symptoms, tell your doctor right away. The most common side effects of LYRICA are:

- Dizziness
- Headache
- Stomach pain
- Sleepiness
- Weight gain
- Stomach or heart problems
- Dry mouth

If you have diabetes, you should pay extra attention to your blood while taking LYRICA and tell your doctor if any signs or skin problems.

#### HOW TO TAKE LYRICA

• Take LYRICA exactly as your doctor tells you. Your doctor will tell you how much to take and when to take it. Take LYRICA at the same time each day.

• Take LYRICA with or without food.

• Do not stop or change your dose of LYRICA without your doctor's advice. Stopping LYRICA suddenly may cause seizures.

• Do not drink alcohol or use other medicines that make you sleepy while taking LYRICA.

• Change the dose at stop LYRICA suddenly. You may have headaches, nausea, dizziness, or trouble sleeping if you stop taking LYRICA suddenly.

• Start up your medicine without first talking to your doctor.

#### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

• Ask your doctor or pharmacist. This is only a brief summary of important information.

• Go to [www.lyrica.com](http://www.lyrica.com) or call 1-866-424-0055 (1-866-4LYRICA).

Don't forget! Read the important information about LYRICA. It's on the inside of the LYRICA box. It's also on the inside of the LYRICA box. It's also on the inside of the LYRICA box.



#### 321. APPLIANCES

**321. BOSCH** Bosch shows clean, clear "Cool-View" windows with their latest advanced technology. Naturally, with their smart temperature control to reverse all types of glass in a room, it's the most advanced for its class. Learn more at [www.bosch-usa.com](http://www.bosch-usa.com)

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**321. GEL APPLIANCE** Gel Appliance's Gel Appliance and Lighting modern ideas for consumers to refresh the look of their home with innovative and energy efficient appliances and lighting products

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## Focus on Faucets



Ji Kim  
Industrial Design Manager

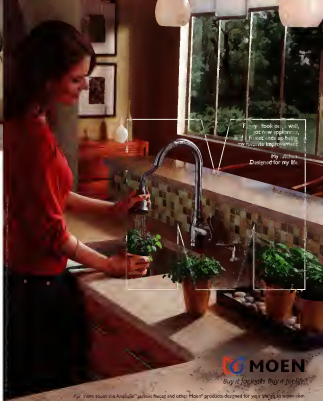
**Moen**  
**NKBA**  
Member since 1973

Between food preparation, cooking, cleaning and washing hands, your faucet is the hardest-working appliance in your kitchen. And with the growing popularity of center islands, it's become much more of a design focal point. Here, Ji Kim, Industrial Design Manager at Moen, shares advice about selecting the right faucet.

“Assess your current setup. Understand your options before you shop. How deep and wide is your sink? How many holes does your current fixture have? Is there a window or shelf that prohibits you from selecting a high-arc faucet? Take a picture and bring it along with you to the home store for guidance.”

Don't be afraid to mix and match. Just because your kitchen is traditional doesn't mean you can't choose a modern faucet. The trend among shoppers these days is to express their personal style by mixing textures, styles and finishes to get the look they really want.

Complement your lifestyle. Everyone wants household items that make their busy lives a little easier. Consider new design innovations, like a single-handed faucet that can be turned on and off with the back of your hand, helping prevent cross-contamination. Pull-down sprays make cleanup quicker and easier. And Moen's patented Spot Resist™ finish resists fingerprints and water spots, requiring much less cleanup effort than standard stainless steel.”



“Faucets look great, but you need something that's easy to use and helps you keep your kitchen looking great.”

“My advice: Designed for my life.”

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For more ideas visit [moen.com](http://moen.com) or call 1-800-845-3333. Moen® products designed for your lifestyle to make life easier.

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IN AMERICA.

Jeep

INTRODUCING  
The All-New  
2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee

## Patterns of light

A third-generation patternmaker uses his woodworking skills to create molds for metal light fixtures reminiscent of original masterworks from the shops of Gustav Stickley and Frank Lloyd Wright. *By KATHY PERMCOFF • Photography by CHARLES DILLON*

Looking for a replica of an Arts and Crafts sconce you saw on a historic house tour? Forget Google Shopping or the big box stores.

For a fixture that's virtually indistinguishable from the original, you'll need a patternmaker like Eric Kaster. The Portland, Oregon, artisan possesses the old-world craft of carving detailed wood patterns from which molds for metal castings are made for everything from chandeliers to cabinet pulls.

Because most solid patterns today are made by machines guided by computer software, they lack the depth of detail, palpable, left, and tiny imperfections you get with items hand-carved from a chunk of pine or alder. A good patternmaker can take a photograph of a fixture you want and craft a wood replica, which is sent to a foundry to be cast in metal. "Very few people do this sort of thing anymore," says Kaster, who worked alongside his grandfather at the family's patternmaking shop for a dozen years before opening his own company, Blink Inc., in 2009.

In addition to custom work, Blink sells original designs featuring Kaster's takes on Craftsman, Art Deco, Art Nouveau, and modern industrial styles. Using equal parts engineering, craftsmanship, and imagination, Kaster creates not just light fixtures but functional works of art. As he puts it, "They feel authentic, made from real stuff by real hands." ■

**Eric Kaster**  
LIGHTING CRAFTSMAN  
AND CO-OWNER OF  
BLINK, ELLINGWOOD



Most of the metal parts and some of the blown glass shades used for Eric Kaster's reproductions and originals are created from wood patterns he carves by hand at Blink. His 12-person shop is in Portland, Oregon.



A high-contrast, low-key photograph of the interior of a 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee. The image focuses on the driver's side, showing the steering wheel with a wood-grain upper half and a black lower half featuring the Jeep logo. The dashboard and center console are visible, with a digital display screen on the dashboard. The gear shift and handbrake are in the foreground. The interior is upholstered in a dark, possibly leather, material. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the wood and the Jeep logo, and deep shadows elsewhere.

**MEASURE 27 TIMES,  
CUT ONCE.**  
THIS IS THE 2011 GRAND CHEROKEE

**Jeep**

THE THINGS WE MAKE,  
MAKE US.

# Your Home Is Filled With Hassles.



## Your Smoke Alarm Shouldn't Be One of Them

Owning a home can seem like one long "to do" list. Kidde's Hallway Smoke Alarm offers 10 years of maintenance-free protection.

With a sealed battery you never have to replace, an alert that tells you when it's time for a new alarm, and an average savings of \$40 on batteries, this Smoke Alarm was designed to make your life easier.

For more information, visit [www.kidde.com](http://www.kidde.com).



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/DAVIDMILAN; KIDDE; JEFFREY M. HARRIS

## kitchen + bath special

## Our favorite new product picks

Looking for a few worthy upgrades for the most-used rooms in your house? We sifted through the latest kitchen and bath products to find ones that save you time, money, and trouble—or simply offer an irresistible spruce-up. **BY DEBORAH BOLDWIN and COLETTE SCARLON**

### → problem solvers

These clever creations make cooking and cleanup just a little easier.



#### ↑ affordable hands-free

Ever groan for the faucet after cutting up a chicken? No wonder: hands-free faucets aren't. Delta's Filter Touch 2-G puts the technology to work in a convenient, built-in. It goes on and off with a tap and doesn't cost a fortune. From \$100. [delta.com](http://delta.com)

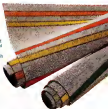


#### ↑ microwave meets warming drawer

The Grati Series built-in from Miele will keep dishes warm for up to 25 minutes, so you can finish making the meal to serve or setting the table. A fingerprint-resistant stainless-steel finish and 12 automatic programs slightly swell prep expenses. \$2,050; [shopping.miele.com](http://shopping.miele.com)

#### ↑ no soggy tub mats

Install a "slip" rug that repels water and stains. The Electric Strip from Glenside is made of soft vinyl loops that resist stains and mold. It's equally well suited to the tub or to the shower stall. Remove it off and hang to dry as needed. From \$45. [glenside.com](http://glenside.com)



#### ↑ one pot, three jobs

Adults pressure cook, slow cook, and make perfect rice. The Multi-Cooker can even steam and roast vegetables. In fact, it's a handy kitchen tool for up to 9 in. From \$120. [logitech.com](http://logitech.com)



**+space-savvy bottle storage**  
 Maximize floor and wall space. The Slimline™ empty bottles parallel to the wall whenever you leave an empty spot. In two sizes and six great colors as well as a limited-edition high-gloss finish. From \$40. [speakercan.com](http://speakercan.com)



**+induction for less**  
 If you're looking for the latest cooking technology, look no further than sleek, solid-glass GE's new 36" induction range (which works only with cookware containing only cookware with an active, large conduction oven and a warming drawer)—all for a new price \$2,000. [gaspliances.com](http://gaspliances.com)



**+clear the air and shed some light**  
 Green's Evolution 3 under-cabinet stainless-steel range hood is not only quiet! (Under 100 dB) but also equipped with four top-of-the-line lights so you can see what's cooking without pulling over the fan. About \$400. [green.com](http://green.com)

## → added convenience

*Save steps and time with these handy helpers for the kitchen*



**+in-counter compost bucket**  
 Make dumping for the compost pail a thing of the past. Blawie's stainless-steel bucket includes built-in with the counter and has a sleek, tight-fitting lid. The bucket fits out for easy emptying and a quick rinse. \$300. [blawie.com](http://blawie.com)



**+flexible fridge**  
 Serving a family size French-door fridge has a wider, high-clearance that can be set at three different heights. Use it for drinks or party guests, or as a meat locker or backup for the before-mount freezer. \$3,000. [samsung.com](http://samsung.com)

FRIDGE AND MEAT LOCKER  
 144" H x 30" W x 30" D



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That's what you get when you choose American Woodmark® cabinetry like our new Maple Harvest and Cherry Java. Visualize one of these delightful cabinetry finishes in your new kitchen. And be sure to see all of our collections, available exclusively at The Home Depot.

You'll also find expert design assistance and popular storage and convenience options to make your kitchen uniquely yours.

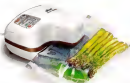


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**kitchen + bath special**



**• shelf-life preserver**  
Vacuum sealing preserves fresh and frozen foods a longer life and makes them easier to store. Philips' redesigned FoodSaver Freezemaker Pro 2000 is compact enough to fit in a drawer and to hold as a kit with five reusable zip-open bags & a bag Seal for home-canning jars, and other accessories. \$149.95; philips.com

**• side-by-side searing**

The G60 gas cooktop from Kuppersbusch allows two foods to cook side by side without crowding or leaning over it, but where its sensible shape means it's bumping kitchen island upgrades. \$1,840. [kuppersbuschusa.com](http://kuppersbuschusa.com)



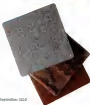
**• faster fill-up**

Mean iModers Speed-Loss pull filter gives 600 gals per minute, compared with the standard 4 ft. 24-inch bagging area shut-off at the 10-in. as well as the base, so you don't have to reach down. \$830. [meanhouse.com](http://meanhouse.com)



**• stone look, zero upkeep**

King-size Corian counters now come in eight new colors. Backed with a solid 4-in. stone to more realistically simulate stone. \$3 to \$13 sq ft. \$42 per square foot installed. [www.2.dupont.com](http://www.2.dupont.com)



**• countertop connection**

No need to stir up the range when roasting a small bird, broiling a salmon steak, baking a hot dish or sweet potatoes, or enjoying a few slices of pizza. KitchenAid's toaster oven has a convection fan for faster, more even heat and is just 22 inches high. \$159. [kitchenaid.com](http://kitchenaid.com)



**• decluttering the prep zone**

Hang up keys, leeks, and pet leashes in the shallow Drop Zone cabinet—it even has built-in hanging slots for the no-hold gloves. It comes in 2 or 24 inches deep, 8 1/2 or 96 inches high and can take a rural cabinet. From \$100. [dramadeclutter.com](http://dramadeclutter.com) for details



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For exceptional reviews, rich color and insight that last, ask [Shirley@williams.com](mailto:Shirley@williams.com). Find the perfect shade at [your.burtoncolor.com](http://your.burtoncolor.com) or [shirleywilliams.com/color](http://shirleywilliams.com/color).



© 2007 The Color Institute. Color is the language of the soul. Shirley Williams is a color expert.

## → sleek new finishes

Give workhorse spaces a little lift with a hint of gloss or a graphic pattern



### → gold trim

A fresh alternative to brass, Arco Homeware's polished gold finish would add a rich, glowing powder finish or shine to built-in or freestanding sinks from the 1830s Inspired Surface Piece Line Collection. From \$7.40; arcohome.com

### → well-priced bubbly

Perfect for a full-on remodel, thin marble rounds from Good Glass are hand cut in varying sizes and mounted on 12-inch square mesh. The modular panel form (see top, left) and (see right) also has an affordable price: \$35 per square foot; call 626-964-3428 to order



### → pump faucet

A shiny 304-stainless-steel Brno pump faucet (left) is 10 inches high and has the look of a true farmhouse pump. Also available in polished chrome and fingerprint-resistant Stainless Finishes. About \$600; graff-faucets.com

### → dramatic drizzle covers

From the Department of Great Details come architectural shower drain covers available in patterns like (from top) Traditional Waves and Deco-Sort. Choose from 30 finishes including brushed brass, satin nickel and polished chrome. Price: \$130; nathans.com



### → silvery tones

Take wallcovering a third dimension (see p. 10) with a silvery finish. Shimmering from here to there, it's easy to install, easy to strip, not even more so than the look of handmade paper. About \$45 per roll; yorkeall.com



PHOTOS: (THIS PAGE) JAMES WHITE; (THIS PAGE) JAMES WHITE; (THIS PAGE) JAMES WHITE; (THIS PAGE) JAMES WHITE

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Arrow Fastener's R.E.D.® tools are built with one thing in mind. They are Reliable. Ergonomic. Versatile.

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Sets are placed right on virtually any surface

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More versatility on the job

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Drive into hard and soft surfaces

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The only manual tool to fire a T" brad nail



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\*As opposed to other competitors' tools. \*\* As measured by a R.E.D. T50 tool.



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Uponor radiant floor heating provides a nice, even heat that takes the chill out of winter floors. Unlike forced air, it reaches every corner of the house and eliminates cold, drafty rooms. What's more, it offers significant energy savings. Warm, cozy, efficient and reliable. You'll wonder why anyone would ever wear slippers. To find out more, call 800-321-4739 or visit [www.uponor-usa.com](http://www.uponor-usa.com)

**uponor**

## A cheery bath overhaul for \$1,625

White subway tile, bright blue paint, and vintage-looking fixtures clean up a kids' bath by NATALIE DEERLING • Photographs by STEVE GUTTE



Overhauled floor tile from \$10 saved the homeowners \$500

For some, projects need time to percolate. "After gutting the room, I had the tile for the kids' bath stacked behind the furnace for four years," says Matthew Manning of Oakwood, Ohio. But he used that time wisely, buying tiles on sale and figuring out a water-friendly remodel of the space to be shared by his son, Sally, and daughter, Noel. Matthew then poured a new floor—the old one had dropped a full inch between the door and the wall opposite it. Next, he installed new backboard, built his own vanity, and tiled, making an intentionally "rocky" mistake by letting grout set too long. "My wife and I stayed up all night scanning each subway tile with scrub pads," says Matthew. But the hard work paid off. Their kids love using the new bright, cheery space. ■

**budget  
redo**



[before]

**before:** It took nearly an entire year to darken the small bathroom. **2011E** Bright blue paint, a porcelain pedestal sink, and a first-day white subway tile tied up in a light and bright vintage-style bath that better suits the 720 American Four-square home. **Painted sink:** Jaxco. **Toilet:** Procter & Gamble. **White tile:** U.S. Ceramic Tile Co. **Recessed American-style:** Ford. **Shower:**

### the project tally:

Gutted the bathroom	\$0
Poured a concrete floor	\$105
Put up new backboard for the walls	\$105
Regrouted the shower's tub	\$250
Installed a new pedestal sink with faucet and a toilet	\$300
Added a medicine cabinet and built a laundry white cabinet	\$445
Installed 2 inch x 4 inch floor tiles and 3 by 6 inch subway wall tiles	\$605
Put in ceramic soap dish, shower mat, and a toilet tissue holder	\$45

**Total**

**\$1,625**



## Clever ways with chalkboard paint

Brush on a chalk-and-eraser calendar, a tabletop canvas, canister labels, and more  
BY DEBORAH BALDWIN

Remember Harold and the Purple Crayon, the book about the kid who liked to draw on walls? You don't have to be a kid to draw Harold's compulsion to scribble anywhere you like. Luckily, with the right surface and writing tool, you can erase your scribbles and do it again.

Chalkboard paint isn't new, but creative minds keep coming up with new ways to use it. Consider the dramatic wall calendar shown here. It begins with a slice of corking coat of standard gray chalkboard paint. With the help of a yardstick, squares were drawn in pencil, then taped off. Two shades were filled in with light and medium gray, leaving the connecting squares the same color as the wall.

The hardest part is coordinating the taping. After you paint the first set of squares, pull up the tape, wait a day, and put down a new line of tape to do the next set.

Once it's had a couple of days to cure, the chalkboard should last years. It's the kind of project that might inspire a Harold wannabe to paint erasable surfaces almost anywhere, including tabletops and canisters. Can't quite picture it? Turn the page.

### three in one

Most chalkboard paint comes in a chalkboard gray. A paint alone can lighten a quart by adding white colorant. Black frame, chalk and light can be blended to get a third, medium shade.



↑ One color covers the entire wall and is repeated in a third of the squares.

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→ **Erziehung** & **Sozialisation**

With the addition of chalkboard paint, a wood tray becomes a handy framed reusable memo pad with a built-in writing place for a slice of chalk.

+ scribble  
+ scribble

**you wait**  
Exuding artists  
can leave their  
marks on the  
billboard lobby—  
without sheding  
their names in ink



pro advice

**DR. MANJEW, DIRECTOR OF COLOR TECHNOLOGY, DYE & PIGMENT DIVISION**

"A single coat of chalkboard paint should suffice, but if the surface gets lots of use, keep some handy for touch-ups."



- + Joseph tracks

Under tension the  
short down the  
length of the  
rod with a  
diameter of  
the rod and



→ read the ingredients

Left spines contain labels that are written  
large and easily identified.



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## first sample:

View the presentation at:

- [illegible]

**WILTED SPINACH SALAD**  
SERVES 4

- 4.** Soup: olive oil, 4 carrots, green bell pepper, 1/2 cup green lentils, 4 tablespoons balsamic vinegar, 2 large 1/2-cup (1/2) packages of buty sprouts, washed, 2 cup Parmesan cheese, shaved.
- 5.** Warm a list of it in a large skillet and add prosciutto. Cook until crisp, in batches if necessary.



**ABOVE:** Separate areas for cooking, cracking, and sitting down to dinner make for better organization and easier traffic flow.



### MOLTEN CHOCOLATE CAKES

(Steps 1 through 5 can be done up to a day in advance; just cover the loaf with plastic wrap and refrigerate. Return the loaf to room temperature before baking. The recipe can also be made in eight 4-ounce ramekins or soufflé cups (two ease cooking time to 8 minutes).

1½ sticks plus 2 tablespoons butter  
 8 ounces semisweet chocolate  
 (such as Ghirardelli Intense Dark 60  
 Percent or Nestlé's Chocolate Dark  
 Chocolate Making Bar)  
 broken into pieces  
 2 large eggs  
 3 large egg yolks  
 5 tablespoons sugar plus extra for  
 coating meringue  
 1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
 1 tablespoon all purpose flour  
 Pinch of salt  
 Powdered sugar for dusting  
 (or confectioners' sugar for frosting)

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Lightly brush butter to pieces on 8 square nonstick or parchment-lined sheet with 2 teaspoons of butter.
2. In a bowl, combine an over-the-top, sticky rice (I used the one from the rice cooker) with 1/2 cup butter and 1/2 cup brown sugar. Stir until smooth. Set aside.
3. In a bowl, combine 1/2 cup butter, 1/2 cup brown sugar, 1/2 cup white and 1/2 cup brown rice until thick and pale yellow.
4. Fold the chocolate mixture into the sticky rice. Fold remaining chocolate mixture and flour until well blended.
5. Grease butter evenly with 2 cups butter. Spread the sticky rice mixture evenly in the buttered dish.
6. Bake 12 minutes on middle shelf. Set hot candies will jiggle. Move candies to serve rack to cool for about 5 minutes. Serve in rectangles, or run with knife across top edge to brownies size. The sticky rice is not on serving plates. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and drizzle with white cream or chocolate drizzle.

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† Data for 1999 are based on data from 1998.



"Taking down most of one wall really helped open up our kitchen. Now we can cook and keep an eye on our baby, too."

—CHRIS BRAUN

LEFT: A granite-topped peninsula and ceiling-hung cabinets delineate the kitchen without blocking light or views into adjoining rooms. BOTTOM: An angled sink with handles more prep plus cleanup.

## Chris Braun & Charlotte Weigel

Midwest, Minn.

### FIRST SUPPER

#### Charlie Webb Dampings

Talk about raising a stealer: Chris Braun didn't knock down part of a wall and rebuild on five weeks' hard labor until his wife, Charlotte, was seven months pregnant. For years they'd cooked meals in Tina Old House while bemoaning their galley kitchen's shortcomings, space was so tight, the fridge door banged into the peninsula and cooking "felt like salacious confinement," says Chris. "Suddenly, we thought, 'We'll rather do this now!'" Charlotte, a former caterer, packed the former with their favorite dishes, and Chris moved the fridge, the microwave, and a bar plane into a spare bedroom downstairs. There he demoted and rebuilt. Both sides of the family gathered to celebrate the new kitchen—and the new baby "Charlotte's from the South," says Chris, "so it had to be chicken with dampings."



## CHRIS & CHARLOTTE'S CHICKEN WITH DAMPINGS SERVES 8

- For the stew:
- 8 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 3 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts and thighs
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 3 carrots, sliced in ¼-inch rounds
- 2 celery ribs, sliced in ¼-inch rounds
- 1 large onion, finely sliced
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 bay leaves
- ¼ teaspoon dried thyme
- 1½ cups chicken peas
- ¼ cup cherry
- ¼ cup baby spinach

- For the dampings:
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons vegetable shortening
- 2 cups buttermilk

1. Bring broth to a simmer in a Dutch oven. Add chicken and return to a simmer. Cover, reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer until chicken is just cooked through, about 20 minutes. Transfer chicken to plate and tent loosely with aluminum foil. Transfer broth to a large bowl.
2. Return empty Dutch oven to medium-high heat and melt butter. Add carrots, celery, onion, and salt, and cook until softened, about 7 minutes. Stir in garlic and cook about 30 seconds. Stir in flour and cook for 1 minute, stirring frequently. Stir in onion, scraping up browned bits. Stir in vegetable broth, onion, thyme, bay leaves, and pepper and bring to a boil.

- Cover, reduce heat to low, and simmer until thick, about 25 minutes.
- For the dampings:
- 1. Stir flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl. Rub shortening at a time with your fingers to create coarse crumbs. Stir in buttermilk to make a lumpy dough.
- 4. Roll each dumpling in flour and return them to a simmer. Simmer until chicken and dumplings are tender, about 10 minutes. Add peas. Drop in 2 rounded, cap-size dumplings into the broth. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer until dumplings double in size, 10 to 15 minutes. Serve in shallow bowls.



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## New siding revives a weathered cottage

Creative trim perks up the facade, while a porch railing and window box bring cheery charm. **By DEB HAGEMAN • Illustration by HOWARD DIGITAL**



(before)

"They say don't judge a book by its cover, but it's hard not to. Please help us without back cover," wrote modern Lisa and Jim Steele of their 1925 cedar-shingled cottage near Syracuse, New York. They've been busy remodeling the inside since they moved in seven years ago, but the exterior was going to have to wait. Until, that is, they won The Old House's Best-Late Photoshop redo Contest—and all-new siding from James Hardie. We asked designer Richard O'Leary to remove a ritual upgrade, and he answered with a mix of shingles and lap siding that embodies the house's character. As for the space just beneath the eaves, O'Leary says, "I wanted to add some focus and a fun detail to the front elevation without desecrating by changing the structure." And what do the Stables think? "Awesome," Lisa says. "All the details give it that look of the quaint house we've always dreamed of." Just as when they set the real thing. Or see for yourself, after contractor David D'Agostino of Right Choice brings the makeover to life. We'll showcase the results in a special feature in the November issue. ■



### Finishing touches

Cottage-style accessories and a mix of siding enhance the charm on this renovation. ■

**974**

**house numbers**  
Stroll-off survivors. Eleven high and a shapely shadow and ensure they'll be seen on the second story. **HouseArt**, \$45 each



**lighting**  
The best friends of these Craftsman-style well-torn sides echo the house's sweeping gables. **BiggestHome**, \$225



siding

Fiber cement adds this cottage's low-maintenance character. James Hardie, discounts from 12 per square foot, shingles from \$4.25 per square foot



window box

Hardiecore, light and durable trim outside. The feel: PVC window boxes add instant curb appeal. **Hook & Lintex**, \$189

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Reference Code 192

## Turn case molding into a mirror frame

How to create a handsome looking glass from fluted casing and corner blocks  
by JONATHAN SILVERMAN • Photograph by WENDY WEISS

Cost: \$850

Time: 4 hours

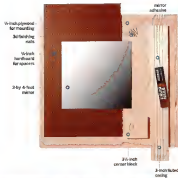
Difficulty: Easy Just glue and nail the fluted pieces to a mounting board. Then glue the molding around the mirror.

Designers and decorators often use mirrors and reflective surfaces to add depth to narrow and small rooms. A strategically placed mirror is a hallway go-to on the far wall of a cozy office, can visually open the room, but the style and size of the mirror itself are just as important as where it goes. Unfortunately, a large molding-framed mirror can set you back hundreds or even thousands of dollars. It doesn't have to, though. To show you how to create a fresh yet traditional-looking mirror that won't shatter your budget, *This Old House* general contractor Tom Silva pulled corner blocks and fluted casing, a great mirror, and some sturdy mounting materials from the sales of a home center. (Scrolling up the design wouldn't cost you much more.) Read on to see how he converts off-the-shelf items into a savvy addition to tight spaces.

cut list  
Download your  
cut list for this  
mirror project at  
thisoldhouse.com/bonus







## HOW IT'S DONE



**1. Cut the pieces.** To size the plywood mounting board, add the casing width to your mirror's dimensions and subtract 1 inch from each side. The casing, resting flush with hardware spacers, will overlap the mirror on their inside edges. Use a circular saw to cut the plywood and hardware. Position the mirror and spacers on the plywood so that the spacers are flush with the plywood's perimeter.

PHOTO: JEFF GORDON; ILLUSTRATION: JILL WILSON; STYLING: J. WILSON



**2. Attach the mirror and hardware.** Apply wood glue to the back of the mirror and clamp them in place. Apply mirror glue to the back of the mirror in a zigzag pattern, and nestle it inside the hardware strips. The hardware strips should be flush with the surface of the mirror and create an overhang for the molding to be installed.



**3. Install the corner blocks.** Set the blocks at the corners of the frame so that the outer edges extend slightly—aid evenly—beyond the plywood and the inside corners overhang the mirror. Glue and nail the blocks in place through the plywood, being careful not to nail into the mirror.



**4. Attach the molding.** Cut the fluted pieces to fit between the corner blocks, and set them in place overhanging the mirror by 1 inch. Glue, clamp, and nail the moldings to the assembly through the hardware and plywood. Plug the fastener holes with wood filler, then sand and paint the frame. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGES 112



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# Black-and-white basketweave tile

These three all share that clean, classic look. Here's how to read between the grout lines

By DEBORAH SALOWY • Photographs by MARK WITZIG

White-on-white tile and every tile, black-and-white tile, are the most popular among do-it-yourselfers and homeowners who opt for a clean floor that could be changed out, squared, and fixed with ease, without any countertop staining, drywall, or "No open flame in proximity to any combustible material" warnings. And because it's been around for centuries, old master and baroque tile makers, from the 16th-century Italian tile makers to the 18th-century English tile makers, have produced a wide variety of black-and-white tile. All three would look great in a bath, where mosaic, or a kitchen, where a neutral, and all-around tile can be the difference between a new, fresh look and a tired, old look.

## High-End

### Quarry Collection

COLLAGE™ BASKETWEAVE MOSAIC

about \$12 by 12 inches white/black 1/8 by 2 inches

+\$44

per square foot

## IS IT FOR YOU?

It's a high-end tile with a black-and-white basketweave pattern. It's made of ceramic and is a good choice for a bathroom or kitchen.

## Mid-Range

### American Restoration Tile

SQUARE-EDGE ENGLAZED PORCELAIN

about \$14 by 12 inches white/black 1/8 by 2 inches

+\$38

per square foot

## IS IT FOR YOU?

It's a mid-range tile with a black-and-white basketweave pattern. It's made of porcelain and is a good choice for a bathroom or kitchen.

## Low-End

### Merola

BASKETWEAVE GLAZED PORCELAIN

about \$9 by 12 inches white/black 1/8 by 2 inches

+\$8

per square foot

## IS IT FOR YOU?

It's a low-end tile with a black-and-white basketweave pattern. It's made of porcelain and is a good choice for a bathroom or kitchen.

While other tile vendors, this tile is made in Portugal with two types of marble: gold/black Italian Carrara and soft black Spanish ones.

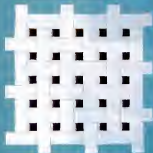
Working closely to make it basketweave, with small black squares, the vendors have crisp edges and light gray/black Polishing gives the marble a light reflecting shine.

Given the small size and water Marble (even if sealed) can be damaged by acidic cleaners which eat into the marble crystal. Besides including shoe polish and some cleaning powders, can scrub the floor.

Many other tile vendors also make and sell at 2 1/2" squares. It is made every hard stone, stoneproof material over time, polished porcelain is rough surface gives a glasslike pattern.

A high-end tile, a 2 1/2" square of early 20th-century basketweave with clean square edges for a tight fit and a black-on-white design surface when grouted.

After a while the grouting wears and the black-on-white pattern and a few high-end tiles can handle any floor cleanup including shoe polish adding an acrylic sealer to the floor surface will speed protection.



pro tip

When you're deciding which one to buy, ask an experienced professional how much it will cost to put down.

## Paint bright stripes to liven up a room

Create a bold accent wall with painter's tape and a menu of complementary colors. by ROBERTA TRIAMON - Photographs by KOLIN BATTY

**Cost:** \$500 for a 10-foot wall

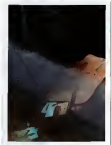
**Time:** 10 hours

**Difficulty:** Easy Taping the stripes is hard, but it requires patience and precision.

You know that a pop of color on an accent wall is a great way to bring new life into your palette. It makes a splash without pricey accessories or wall coverings. But why stop at one color when a striped pattern can pull in an entire array of cheerful options? All it takes is a little strategy. Read on to see how *The Old House* senior technical editor Mark Powers gets away with two rounds of taping to put up the five-stripe pattern.

Project featured in *Home's* September issue. In *Home's* video, *Let's Go!* series, follow Powers' blue, super-white, five-stripe design.

For complete instructions, turn the page.



### MAS = MY PERSONAL GOALS

WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF MONEY SPENDING UP  
MY MOMENTS ONLY HAVE ABOUT 1000. THEY REMIND  
ME TO ENJOY LIFE'S AND ENJOY THE MOMENTS  
BEFORE MY OWN DEATH. MY NEW GOALS IS THAT  
FIRST THING THAT I CAN DO IS REALLY MAKE  
MY OWN. AND I DON'T ME. I'M MAKING MY  
FEEL GOOD. ANOTHER GOAL YOU'RE ACCOMPLISHED  
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DOING STUFF OUT THE LIFE I'M MAKING  
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Thanks for your story, Sergio!

\*Options shown. Based on Toyota Motor Corporation sales data for Corollas in Japan in 1999 through January 2009. ©2009 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

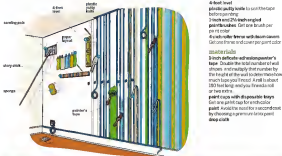
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## Project timeline

**PREP DAY** Lay out pattern and create the story stick.

**SATURDAY** Tape and paint the first set of stripes.

**SUNDAY** Tape and paint the second set of stripes, and touch up the entire wall.



### tools

sanding pad fitted with 120-grit sandpaper  
sponge  
1/4-inch-wide stick cut to the length of the painting perimeter  
4-foot level  
plastic putty knife to seal tape before painting  
2-inch-wide 24-inch-long paintbrushes. Get one brush per paint color  
4-inch-roller frame with foam rollers. Get one frame and cover per paint color  
masking tape  
1-inch delicate-adhesion painter's tape. Double the total number of wall shoes, and multiply that number by the height of the wall to determine how much tape you'll need. A roll is about 180 feet long and you'll need a full or two extra  
paint caps with disposable bristles. Get one paint cap for each color  
palet. Avoid the need for a second coat by choosing a premium latex paint  
drop cloth

## 2. Lay out the pattern

**A. Create a story stick.** Rather than fumbling with a measuring tape, cut a thin strip of lumber the length of one full stripe sequence, and measure off and mark the stripes' boundaries. Use tape to extend each line evenly around the stick. Be sure to keep the tape to the same color of the lines, and for good measure, draw an arrow indicating which edge of each tape wrap serves as the line. Label the left and right ends of the stick, as well as the color for each stripe. Be reminded you have to seal and stretch tape you stick it back up.

**B. Mark the wall.** Hold the story stick against the base of wall with the left end abutting the adjacent wall. Align it with a level, then transfer the pattern lines onto the wall with light tick marks. When you reach the end



of the stick, divide the last tick mark so that you know where to start the stick on the next stripe line.

**C. Transfer the lines.** Using a 4-foot level, draw the stripes, line them with light pencil marks at the top, middle, and bottom of the wall (being careful that pencil can peek through even dark paint).

### get the pics

Download the layout for this and wall patterns at [bit.ly/2housewars](http://bit.ly/2housewars)

Photo

## 1. Prep the wall and design the pattern

**A. Clean the surface.** First, turn off the power, remove any loose plastic floorplates, and cover each receptacle with painter's tape. Use a sanding pad fitted with 120-grit sandpaper to smooth the wall to remove any rough texture that could prevent the tape edges from fully adhering to the wall. Wipe the wall clean with a large, damp sponge and allow it to dry completely.

**B. Design the repeating pattern.** Create a pattern of stripe widths and colors to repeat across the wall. (The pattern here is about 4 feet wide.) Think long visually to the sequence of stripes and make the playful manageable. To design the pattern, print pages at each paint color and cut them into strips equal to the desired width of the stripes, such as 1, 3, and 5 inches, as shown. Your pattern can have any number of colors, but they should complement one another when viewed as a whole. We chose five colors, including white.



## 3. Tape the stripes

**A. Tape the stripes.** On the first round, you'll tape off and paint every other stripe and let them dry. For round two, you'll finish along the edges of the painted stripes to bracket off the unpainted ones. Before you start, cut a 1/4-inch of painter's tape over the stripes you want to skip. Then, from stripe to stripe, start at the top of each stripe and work your way down, creating solid lines with tape along both borders of the stripes to be painted. Let the tape extend at the floor end and the top for easy removal. Draw arrows on the tape pointing toward the areas to be painted.

**B. Seal the tape.** Run a plastic putty knife down each set of tape as you work to be sure the tape edges fully adhere to the wall. A metal blade could tear the wall. This will keep the paint from bleeding under the tape.

## 4. Paint the stripes

**A. Get in and roll on the paint:** On the first round, paint the stripes between the staves, avoiding the ones blocked off with Ks. Using a paintbrush, cut in the paint along the ceiling and baseboard, and along the wall adjacent to the first stripe. For every stripe, stick with the paintbrush for the entire length. And when painting with the brush, keep your strokes vertical and pull paint away from the tape to avoid pushing paint beneath it. For larger stripes, use a smooth roller to coat the open area between the tape.

**B. Remove the tape:** Remove the tape before the paint dries. Otherwise, paint can bridge the seam between the wall and the tape, and removing the tape may remove paint, too. Start at the ceiling and pull downward on an angle, as shown.



4

## 5. Finish the wall

**A. Apply the second round of tape:** After the paint on the first set of stripes has dried for at least 24 hours, tape off the edges of each painted stripe, as shown. Seal the tape with the plastic painter's tape.

**B. Finish painting the field:** Cut in and paint the remaining stripes with a brush or roller, removing the tape while the paint of each stripe is still wet.

**C. Touch up the stripes:** Using a paintbrush, carefully touch up any gaps or overlaps. Create a diagonal line away from the wall, as shown. Then press the tip of the brush to the wall and steadily pull toward the line. Run the paintbrush along the line until the gaps are sealed.



5

The Hold the story stick up to the wall as a reference before you paint each stripe to ensure you're using the right color.



## Design guide

The width of the stripes and the colors you choose for your accent wall will have a dramatic effect on the feel of the pattern. Wide, uniform-width stripes in formal colors create a formal atmosphere, while thin stripes in varied widths tend to look more playful. Here are a few ideas to inspire both your pattern and your palette.



**1. Formally tonal**  
Stripes painted in monochromatic walls in two shades of color or a bright yellow and yellow beige, create a formal look appropriate for a sitting area or period room.

**2. Young and hip**  
Wide bands in a hue that contrasts create a trendy look, especially when paired in bright colors or against earth tones. Such a look works best in a kid's room or a modern living space.

**3. Playfully skinny**  
Thin stripes painted in a variety of sizes and colors layout a fun feel. Create a layered look by painting a thin stripe of one color over stripes of a wide stripe of the same color.

**4. Cool and casual**  
Contrast a vibrant color with a neutral color without jarring your eye. Choose muted colors from the same palette and leave large strips of the background color exposed in varied widths between each painted stripe.

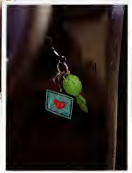




### I LOVE THAT NEW ME SMELL

I had been in New York for eight years  
I needed a change of pace  
At twenty-six I kind of woke up and was  
like, "All right, time to go." A couple of  
months later, I drove out to California with  
my dad. I had to have a car to get around  
LA, so I got a new Corolla. It's my first  
brand new car that I bought on my  
own. It was like, I don't know, I made it  
like, I'm an adult.

Stephanie Powell  
2010 Corolla owner



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# This Old House & Home

## Secrets to a serene, unified look

Tips from a pro  
on making  
small rooms  
flow together

**Come  
inside!**

Our special  
decorating  
section

To give a vintage Colonial a fresh edge, the Old House Series was paired with updated traditional furnishings.

photographs by  
David Prince  
styling by  
Jesse Orr

**clean-lined comfort**

→ elegant neutrals

→ luxurious textures

→ hits of bold color

A custom sofa, scaled to fit the room, has soft gray upholstery with crisp white piping. Accent pillows in rich hues warm up the neutral palette.

And instead of an ornate chandelier, high end is coming in a contemporary chandelier.



LEFT: Interior designer Stephanie King relaxes on a tailored sofa in her 200th birthday. She read every night, but with a light touch.

### Maybe it was knowing that the house was

built in the 1700s—for anyone. Or maybe it was knowing an escape from big city territory awaited. When interior designer Stephanie King took possession of a spare suburban Bedford, New York, three years ago, she adapted a palette of weathered grays, warm whites, and gentle blues. “The house is incredibly charming, and the inside I loved in just knew I could make it spectacular,” she recalls. “But because the rooms weren’t used and the ceilings were low, I knew I had to be almost monochromatic to create a sense of flow.” Working with a professional interior decorator, she restored marble moldings and built in cabinets, and she built the kitchen and master bath. Then, to “add a bit of intrigue,” she added the worn pine floors downstairs.

Each room also got a delicious dose of color and texture. Linen, corduroy, and leather sign luxury in rooms remarkable for their simplicity. “Friends always say how warm it feels,” says Stephanie. Her other design trick is to “use large pieces to make small rooms look grand.” A vintage clock stands tall in the living room, an oversized portrait dominates the breakfast table. “I also keep the clutter down,” she says. “It makes the rooms even bigger.”

For other tips on how to turn a small house into a calm retreat, read on.

**1. neo baroque light**  
Faceted glass in an ornate iron frame in the Square Crystal Ball Room \$240 overstock.com

**2. arm-shaped lamp**  
The Dine in Alexander lamp to match the room with a gentle slope and a semi-gray shade. \$199 overstock.com

**3. arched footstool**  
Dark wood legs and jute upholstery give the 40-inch square footstool a contemporary look. \$700 roomandboard.com

**4. graphic rug**  
An exotic pattern turns the Greek key rug into a centerpiece. Starting at \$999 jordanmiller.com

**5. antique accent**  
Copper shelves under the Solid Oak handcrafted pillow cover. \$244 overstock.com

**6. streamlined seat**  
This is a mix of the Upholstered Square Chair set 4 uphol for more views \$700 overstock.com

**7. purple hue**  
A lot of purple in the room creates a warm matching look. \$40 overstock.com



The Best Home





①

#### 1. shimmery light

The Favo Crystal Chandelier will add a touch of glamour over the breakfast table. \$230. [www.splish.com](http://www.splish.com)

#### 2. shaggy seat

The Parsons dining chair has a round back and a shaggy seat. \$149. [macy.com](http://www.macy.com)

#### 3. choose perfect

The Arden extension table seats four to six diners. \$499. [barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

#### 4. a quick storage

Oversee glass. Agglomerate Jars make decorative use of your flat. From \$35 each. [pier1.com](http://www.pier1.com)

#### 5. high profile

The Bopart faucet has a high profile. \$1,082. [bopart.com](http://www.bopart.com)



↑  
The Bopart faucet has a high profile. \$1,082. [bopart.com](http://www.bopart.com)



②



③



④



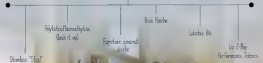
⑤

Arden white cabinets—  
the perfect mix of  
cabinets, walls, and  
backsplashes—  
provide a classic  
look with a modern  
edge. \$1,082. [bopart.com](http://www.bopart.com)

## STAIN RESISTANT COMFORT INDEX

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©2004 Le Z-Boy Furniture, Inc.

Home

#### 2. exorbitant top

The Clover Tapered Long Single White Sink Console is a pretty and practical \$1,300 potterybarn.com

#### 3. both decorator

Madison's double as a cake stand when served from the Clara white decanter. \$200 potterybarn.com

#### 5. some handles

The chrome Bolo Fonti Wedgehead's Rustic with Pull-Up Drawers has the authentic details of a period fixture. \$294 vintagehut.com

#### 6. shell interior

Let gifts from the sea add interest to an expense of white bath for with the InterStar Shell Medication. \$380, bettercase.com

#### 8. candle light

The Midtopped in wall sconce is finished with a hand-painted green slim shape. \$180 bettercase.com

#### 6. vintage spray

Patina's Euro-style Single Function Spray bottle has a spray setting, just like the vintage version. \$17, bettercase.com

Vintage touches, like a marble top and wide spread, porcelain-capped faucet handles, give a simple white vanity a character boost.

White ceramic sink with brass rim and chrome handles. \$100, bettercase.com



#### 2. flexible light

The Charleswood sconce has a classic swing-arm design. \$118 lightingdirect.com

#### 2. touch of red

Helping Puller's Bed provides a pop of color and texture. \$25 each, bettercase.com

#### 5. bedroom bench

The curvy Farmington Bench is a great way to add a touch of style. \$299, bettercase.com



AL SAYS, "REAL DOGS RIDE IN PICKUPS, NOT PURSES."

#### AL'S THE VOICE OF REAL DOGS.

He's tired of watching dogs being drawn into the crazy complications of everyday human life. Enough of designer collars, doggie day care, playdates and food that's better suited to a spouse like than a dog dish. Al thinks it's time to get back to the business of dogs being dogs. REAL DOGS EAT WHAT?



Furniture Boutique, built as a piece of art. Bowling, bowling, and soft grip candles are featured by shopping and events and enjoy the best artwork.



*Bold black accents and controlled pops of color keep pale furnishings from looking washed out*

**1. bubble chair**

The antique-kub Abacus dining chair has a distressed black finish and traditional bowing. \$165, [mccorddesign.com](http://mccorddesign.com)

**2. blue vase**

Clay figurines usually worn as their neutral surroundings. From \$15 each, [jasonandjordan.com](http://jasonandjordan.com)

**3. round mirror**

The 36-inch Saratoga mirror is a handsome black-and-white pattern and bronze accents. \$245, [westerndesign.com](http://westerndesign.com)

**4. bench seat**

A rustic 36-inch bench seat is made of pine—adds texture to a country interior. \$220, [benchesforless.com](http://benchesforless.com)



Homeowner Sid Pham King updated the original fireplace with a white surround and glass doors. Accents with curved profiles soften the metal's sharp lines.



2

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCCORD DESIGN



**30**  
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**Home**

# 26

## low-cost, high-style kitchen upgrades

Adding character to your cook space doesn't have to put you in the poor house. The secret's in the finishing touches. See how fresh paint, new lighting, and smart use of colorful tiles and vintage accents can personalize the hub of your home

### GO FOR RETRO COOL

- 1. Oversee task lights:** Put pendants above the kitchen island. They're classier than track lighting or recessed cans, and cost less, too. The large-scale aluminum ones at right echo the shine of the faceted cabinet hardware, tying the kitchen's details together. Similar to shown: 20-inch Polo Pendant Lamp, \$30, [ikea.com](http://ikea.com)
- 2. Vintage look floor:** Add some coziness with a new floor made of an old-school material: linoleum. It's easy to clean, naturally antiseptic, and comes in more than a dozen shades, such as the vibrant red. Similar to shown: Marroquin 13 by 20-inch tiles at Bed Bath & Beyond. \$4.99 per square foot. [transformationcode.com](http://transformationcode.com)
- 3. Colorful cabinetetry:** Reinvest dark wood or white cabinets by painting them a striking hue. Here, a pale sage green reminiscent of vintage polka-dot wallpaper balances the intensity of the red floor. Paints at Rust-Oleum's [www.terrygoss.org/colortakeover](http://www.terrygoss.org/colortakeover). Fitted with: \$34 per gallon. [beh.com](http://beh.com)

**4. Wall-art upgrade:** Trade gray-toned decor for graphic prints like this one. Vintage look posters, starting at \$20, [allposters.com](http://allposters.com)





## TRY TRADITIONAL WITH A TWIST

**1. Eye-catching island** Paint your kitchen walls in an accent color. The dark green accent walls, used with warm yellow cabinets and a casual mixing visual impact. Interior Latex Semi-Gloss in Warm Green (Salem) and Peat Air (Salem). \$37 per gallon; clipart.com

**2. Wood counter** Cover the island top with a dark wood. This hand-wearing, solid-friendly surface adds the look of the black counters but rings the room. Similar to show: solid maple 27 by 60-inch slab (3/4-inch thick). \$125; jobbox.com

**3. Pot rack** Save cabinet space by hanging cookware overhead. This rack is painted in a dark black. This hand-wearing, solid-friendly surface adds the look of the black counters but rings the room. Similar to show: solid maple 27 by 60-inch slab (3/4-inch thick). \$125; jobbox.com

**4. Island sink** Save cabinet space by hanging cookware overhead. This rack is painted in a dark black. This hand-wearing, solid-friendly surface adds the look of the black counters but rings the room. Similar to show: solid maple 27 by 60-inch slab (3/4-inch thick). \$125; jobbox.com

**5. Island sink** Save cabinet space by hanging cookware overhead. This rack is painted in a dark black. This hand-wearing, solid-friendly surface adds the look of the black counters but rings the room. Similar to show: solid maple 27 by 60-inch slab (3/4-inch thick). \$125; jobbox.com

## ADD COMMERCIAL APPEAL

**6. DIY counter** Pour a concrete top like this one with help from [kitchendesigns.com](http://kitchendesigns.com). Clear up. An author by concrete countertops. Clearing up an instructional DVD plus all the tools and materials is on the counter for as little as \$20 per square foot. [concreteexchange.com](http://concreteexchange.com)

**7. Wall runner** Use a expensive fresh space. This single strip of blue subway tile behind the range makes an oceanic impact. Similar to show: 3 by 6-inch Oceanic tile in white. Gloss. about \$10 per square foot. [amendable.com](http://amendable.com)

**8. Natural stone floor** Bring outdoor materials indoors. These black stone pavers are hand-wearing, easy to clean and easy to use. Starting at \$3 per square foot. [stone.com](http://stone.com)

**9. Pro-style shelving** Use solid-line vintage wood mixing racks like this one. Once used by French champagne producers to show their vintage bubbly, the racks hold double as wine racks. Similar to show: Single Side oak mixing rack. Starting at \$199. [mollieskies.com](http://mollieskies.com)



## CREATE AN AIRY LOOK

**11. Open upper** Remove the doors on upper cabinets to make an open kitchen feel more spacious. For a finished look, paint the interiors to match the base cabinets. Here, a crisp white enamel matches the subway tile backsplash and marble countertop. Similar to show: Solid Maple White. \$34 per gallon. [clipart.com](http://clipart.com)

**12. Tiled grid** Highlight the grid pattern around the sink by mixing a colored paint with the mortar. Soft gray grid lines contrast with the white subway tiles, giving the backsplash a new look to match the retro look of the kitchen. Similar to show: Laticrete Spectra Lock Powder Grout in Light Powder. \$15 for a 2 1/2-pound bag. [lowe.com](http://lowe.com)

**13. Library light** Trade a standard under cabinet fluorescent strip for a fun choice: typically used to brighten bookshelves or artwork. This chrome version above the sink echoes the finish on the cabinet knobs and pulls. Similar to show: 20-inch Puck Light in chrome by George Kovacs. \$110. [kitchen.com](http://kitchen.com)

## MAKE IT LIGHT AND BRIGHT

**14. Stained-glass transoms** Frame a bright window with a stained-glass transom. Four small squares put this extra-wide opening, but it needn't cover a single rectangular window. Similar to show: Stained-glass panels. Starting at \$125 each. [beadandblock.com](http://beadandblock.com)

**15. Mini pendant** Install multiple small pendant lights instead of large hanging fixtures. These miniature schoolhouse lights let light shine down on the countertop. Similar to show: Westington 1-Light Mini Pendant in bronze with white glass shade. \$82. [blumenshieldlighting.com](http://blumenshieldlighting.com)





## FASHION A FARMHOUSE FEEL

**17. White-washed walls** Lighten the look of wood paneling by brushing on a white tinted glaze. Here, the finish softens lovely glass- or busy-graphic-pattern Studio Finishes latex glass, \$2.99 per gallon. [benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com)

**18. Decorative brackets** Boost style with carved-wood supports, such as these white-painted terra-cotta, up open shelves and a breakfast bar. Similar to shown: Widdell two-way brackets, \$7 each; [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com)

**19. Light-diffusing shades** Replace glare with more subtle fabric shades. These relaxed romans are custom, but for a similar look by the Aspen Tile & Stone in-stock, \$20; [bedoutbedbeyond.com](http://bedoutbedbeyond.com)

**20. Bare-light** Install a rustic wall sconce with wide-brim shades. Put it over the sink, as we did here, to illuminate your cleanup spot. Similar to shown: 14-inch Wix sconce, Sconcecraft; blank light with bronze finish, \$130; [barnlightelectric.com](http://barnlightelectric.com)



## CRAFT COTTAGE CHARM

**21. Two-tone cabinets** Call out best or partial overlay doors and drawers fronts by painting them a different shade from the cabinet boxes. (Here, soft blue vert against a white sand birchgrain; see also above-hdr cabinet.) For tips, visit [lakesidepaint.com](http://lakesidepaint.com) or [lakesidepaint.com](http://lakesidepaint.com) and [lakesidepaint.com](http://lakesidepaint.com) (shown). \$40 per gallon. [benjaminmoore.com](http://benjaminmoore.com)

**22. Rustic paneling** Add texture to smooth drywall, as well as soft protection in high-traffic areas, such as the hallway leading to this kitchen, with floor-to-ceiling V groove paneling. Similar to shown: EverTrue MDF V groove 5 1/2 inch by 8 foot preprimed w/semi-gloss, \$25 for 14 square feet; [lowes.com](http://lowes.com)



## 28 more suggestions

See additional ways to inspire your kitchen at [thisoldhouse.com/topics](http://thisoldhouse.com/topics)

## THRIFTY TILE IDEAS

**23. High-class mosaic** Save mabg pbs, like this soft wall installation, by using imperfect tiles. If you don't mind tiny loose tiles, pricing also can land for cheap. Tiles range for as little as \$1 per square foot. Similar to shown: Solid Color 4 by 4 inch tiles, \$1.65 each; [mosaiccity.com](http://mosaiccity.com)

**24. Eye-catching border** Upgrade inwood range hood canopy by trimming its bottom edge with decorative trim tiles. Search eBay.com for vintage ceramic squares with distressed designs similar to the ones shown. Here—all 18 for \$4.41 each.

**25. Multi-color grid** Mix and match brightly tinted fired clay tiles in a spaced-apart mosaic. These hand-painted terra-cotta tiles from Mexico stand up to the heat from a propane range. Similar to shown: Talavera Solid Color 4 by 4 inch tiles, \$1.65 each; [mosaiccity.com](http://mosaiccity.com)

**26. Backsplash and shelves** Use ceramic mosaic tiles on the wall, such as these Moroccan exports, to tie the look. The black handmade squares fit together like puzzle pieces to form colorful medallions. Similar to shown: 8 by 8 inch tiles and the Malla pattern, \$7.25 each; [villagapointe.com](http://villagapointe.com)



# 21

## thrifty ways to deck out your bath

Polishing up a worn washroom needn't require pricey new fixtures or wall-busting construction.

On these pages: How to make the most of what you have with creative wall and window treatments, salvage-yard finds, and stylish storage ideas.

BY AMY B. HUGHES

### EMPHASIZE THE POSITIVE

- 1. Brighten the bath.** Make your washroom take a local paint by coloring the outside vibrantly. (Find painting pointers on page 22.) For a shade similar to shown, try All Surface Painted in Rose Red. \$44 per gallon, [benandwilliams.com](http://benandwilliams.com).
- 2. Dress up the drapes.** Swap understated shades for long stripes. Choose for the video: fabric panels frame outside view. These nondescript plaid ones also add a playful touch. Drapes in a variety of lively colors and patterns starting at \$24 per panel, [www.usablinds.com](http://www.usablinds.com).
- 3. Eye-catching trim.** Accentuate the architecture by brushing a color on white-painted moldings. Here, a pink primer hue. HighWater's the window covering, waterproofing, and a wall-mount shelf. Elan Kitchen & Bath Mid-South Fresh in Garden of Paradise. \$32 per gallon, [vintage.com](http://vintage.com).

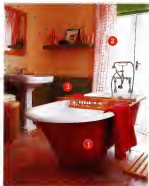


PHOTO: JEN LINDSEY FOR ELAN KITCHEN & BATH



**4. DIY tip**  
Cover up a plastic vanity with a wood applique. Similar to shown. Mended in a day. \$35, [vintagewoodvictoria.com](http://vintagewoodvictoria.com).

### REWORK THE CLASSICS

**5. Facelift-style vanity.** Make a runny vanity look out of a vintage desk. Choose one with deep drawers to show built-in radiator adjuster to create scrub-out on the top. Wood desks like this go for about \$75 at thrift stores.

**6. Freshen counter.** Use dark stone for the look of custom at a fraction of the cost. Similar to shown: Pergas 48-inch Granite vanity top with undermount sink. \$389, [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com).

**7. Spread-up storage.** Update the medicine chest you have rather than replace it. New white paint and black knobs coordinate this cabinet with the vanity below.

**8. Multifunctional vanity.** Custom-made sheets provide fresh-laid floor tile with colorful accents. Design a pattern, pop out white tiles, and replace with colored ones at the same size and shape. Here, blue and black accents on the tile wall panel and counter top. Similar to shown: American Ocean 12 by 32-inch Seravito mosaic white porcelain tile. \$2.75, [lives.com](http://lives.com). For the accents, search overstock.com at the shower.com, in \$10 to \$30 can buy enough for an entire floor.

FRIM OUT AND TIE TOGETHER

**9. Submerge sink support:** Turn a table gathering dust in your attic into a sink console. This wooden table (topped by a vinyl slab) adds stylish storage beneath an eating wall hung sink. For a hefty alternative to a sink, rest your sink on three snap strips from the store yard. Expect to pay about \$40 in materials. Epoxy the joints and set in place with adhesive ch...

**10. Accessories with sparkle:** Add matching metal towel holders, such as these chrome bars and ring, to boost function for very little coin. Similar to shown: Moen, [moen.com](http://moen.com).

**11. Cherry accents** Inject color into a plain white bath with small details. Here, blue towels coordinate with the tending on the sconce shades and the lower curtain. You can vary your curtain shades and even window treatments and floor mats by turning the edges with ribbon. Blue 3½-inch-blue-satin ribbon, \$4 for 600 yds; red, richly textured cotton, sold locally.

19 other easy ideas

Please don't forget to budget your site for your little at the oldhouse.com/home



## EVOLVE PERIOD ELEGANCE

**38. Vintage pendant:** Hang a chandelier for a bit of sophistication in an unexpected spot. This brass and crystal fixture also draws attention to one of the bull's best attributes: its lacy wing. Get reinstalled ready to install chandeliers salvaged from old homes starting at \$275. [stefanijulien.com](http://stefanijulien.com)

**12. Decorative window** Replaces plate glass window with a stained or leaded glass pane to obscure the view without blocking light. If you can't find an exact fit for your opening, hang an iron chain curtain in front of the panning window. An Art Deco plate like this one can be found for less than \$100 on eBay.com.

**IN, Angled tub** Save square footage for a freestanding tub without the mass and expense of building a barosquel by placing it on the diagonal. Be sure to leave a few inches between the tub's front and the walls, as was done here. The tub's sliding doors makes a small space feel larger. *Design salvage: penguin.com or a seater. Vintage find: vintagefinds.com*



## GO FOR BUILT-IN CHARM

**15. Wall shelf** Save floor space by mounting storage shelves on the wall. Hung high above the tub, this bracketed shelf is ideal for displaying knickknacks. To occasionally use items, hang your wifemans a roach. Similar to above: Eddy Wabes/Eddy Tryggve wall shelf, [www.bonded.com](http://www.bonded.com), \$75. [Bero.com](http://Bero.com)

**16 Towel rack** Tapewoork with hanging rail, rather than a wood cap, for a charming way to hang towels. Paint the rail the same color as the paneling below it, as shown here, or match it to the walls. 3½-inch 1x4 Plan Shaker peg rail w/lengths of 27 to 90 inches. 99 cents per inch in unfinished poplar. [woodworking.com](http://woodworking.com)

**IT Tub-around** Give a drop in July a shingle look by paneing its exterior. To guard against rot on wood surroundings like this one, make the deck out of plywood topped by a sheet of waterproof laminate, and cap just the edges with solid stock. Use exterior-grade beadboard plywood for the sides, and start the bottom with baseboard. Last, paint the various wood components to match the laminate. Find all the materials for less than \$100 at home centers.



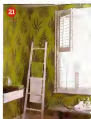
## CLASSIC, LOW-COST WALL COVERINGS

**28. Horizontal enduse:** Turn vertical paneling on its side for a fresh take on traditional look. Use moisture resistant MDF sheets or primed polystyrene or solid individual wood "stiles" to seal the end and substitute as desired. See photo shown. Noisubler Boardboard 6 inch Channel Board \$2.30 per square foot. [boardboard.com](http://boardboard.com)

**20. Ceramic squares:** Tile walls with the same tiles used on the floor for a dramatic monochromatic effect. Dark gray ceramic tiles have a look similar to the soapstone squares shown here but cost 25 percent less and offer more traction under wet feet. Flooring: \$46 in Aquano. \$8.40 per square foot, durable, cool.

**20. Bold paint:** Hightop white painted woodwork with a colorful backdrop. Here, a complementary gold and eggplant scheme commands attention. Kitchen & Bath Paint in Pure Joy and Purple Haze \$34 per gallon. [denverhouse.com](http://denverhouse.com)

21. **Washable paper** Add color and texture with coated wallpaper that's easy to clean and can stand up to high humidity. Simple is shown. The best alternative? Reversible design on page 54. \$47 per roll. [tmbuilds.com](http://tmbuilds.com) ■





# THE EASY-CARE YARD

Using no-fuss materials and water-thrifty plantings, this landscaping pro gave his small urban lot plenty of visual punch and practical outdoor living space while minimizing upkeep. Coming up five key ideas he put to work—and you can too

by Jeanne Huber | photographs by Lisa Bricevic  
styling by Sunday Street Interiors

One reward of overhauling other people's properties for a living is experience that you can put to action on your own place—eventually. For eight years, Vincent Ocampo worked as the contractor half of a design-build team in Southern California with garden designer Nicole Lopez. He loved how their work blurred the boundaries between indoors and out. Finally, a year after he and his wife, Dorset, bought a home and had a baby, it was his turn. When there was just a small, sloping lot in front and more struggling grass in back, he and Lopez imagined an easy-to-maintain landscape alive with color and texture and divided up into lots of outdoor seating and entertaining areas for friends and a large extended family. Read on for the principles they followed in designing the Ocampos' landscape.

**PSST:** When visiting California homeowner Michael Ocampo and his daughter, Alexia, you get to see a joyous meal in bloom. PSST: The backyard outdoor dining area sits on poured-concrete perfectly level terrain with an airy glass-and-wood slat screen. Just beyond it is a cork-concrete fireplace with above-killing wall in either side where guests can perch during get-togethers.



1

### Plant a front-yard garden.

Front lawns demand regular mowing, mowing and weed control. The Ocampos' sloping front yard goes for understated beauty and plenty of play space for their young daughter with a virtually maintenance-free garden. A stepped-up stone tile path winds through the center, flanked by dramatic palms, colorful succulents and other low-water plants. An arched gate off the driveway (which cuts in front of the house to the garage) and a parking pad. Concrete paving tints red up purple gives the whole yard a cozy hue. Softly behind the gates, daughter Alexa and her friends like to play hopscotch on the driveway or do a hand on the small front deck.



(below)

2

### Keep the lawn to a minimum.

The Ocampos kept a patch of lawn in it. It's so small—about 16 feet square—that it never more like an area rug than walk to walk carpet. It sits to the side in the backyard and is the first thing you come to if you enter from the side yard. They thought it was weird as a play space for their daughter, but it mostly serves as a place to sit on the back of the house. Vincent constructed a low wall of pebbles and a small fountain around one of the garden walls where it is surrounded by palms and leafy Chilean mesquite trees. Now the sound of splashing water enlivens this quiet corner of the yard.



### More privacy, more areas for outdoor living.

Developer Monte Lopez wanted the front yard steps with a walkway with four steps that takes two turns as it leads to the front door. Garden beds flow down to the street, a house with driveway pines establishes the home's privacy zone. Keeping a mature yucca tree to help soften the landscape. In the outdoor living area, a low wall with different stone tiles underfoot. From the front grass.



3

### Rely on low-maintenance hardscape for outdoor living.

The Ocampos' garden is so easy to care for partly because it substitutes paving and stonework for lawn and traditional perennial beds. But with a lot of hardscape, you need a good designer you can work up with a yard that looks like an outdoor parking lot. Lopez's solution was to create a modern landscape that gives the space a sense of order. Changes in elevation help define the spaces in front and delineate the spaces in back.

The front walkway leading up from the sidewalk has four steps and takes two 90-degree turns about 6 feet apart. Then ends where the concrete driveway cuts across the yard to the garage. But your eye continues because the concrete is scored into 6-foot-wide squares whose edges visually connect the path to the front steps.

In the background, three nearly square areas—the lawn, the fireplace patio, and the dining

patio—though the yard goes in a circle to match backdrops in the house. Planting beds of different sizes fill in the odd spaces to make it look more symmetrical overall.

Dividing the backyard into three distinct "rooms," the design gives each a slightly different elevation and a distinct material underfoot. The poured-concrete floor of the dining area is largest, level with the floor of the house. It connects via a wood deck accessed by two sets of doors. One set of doors leads to the outdoor kitchen, which is paved with broken flagstones surrounded by softer-looking decomposed granite. On the other side, a steep slope leads to the fireplace area, which is paved with the same stone tiles as in front, and a small ribbon of decomposed granite outlines the seating wall and surrounds. This area slopes down to the patch of lawn, the smallest and lowest "room"—fitting for the section most closely related to earth. The step ups are subtle, says Lopez, "but they really do make the space seem bigger." The poured concrete and marble stone also need a quick sweep for cleaning. The decomposed granite might need to be replenished with a couple of new shovels and a rake again.





**4** Focus on water-thrifty perennials to provide color and texture. A low maintenance garden means forcing annuals and plants that need to be coddled "It always kills people. Don't plant anything that needs to be swapped out," says Vincent. Because of the region's hot, dry climate and water restrictions, the Ocampo used a lot of native plants and succulents. Low growers cover the ground around stepping stones and shrubs soften the edges of landscape areas. Says Vincent, "I know then what I know now, I'd have saved money by just walking and picking." Today, presently often ask to do just that. Harvesting easy-to-root sprigs from his street-side succulents to stick in pots and grow at home.

**5**

### Add containers as sculptural decorative elements.

Containers serve a practical purpose, of course, but they can also double as garden art. The Ocampo installed three tall, chunky terracotta pots to act as focal points and grow the eye upward in their small yard. Stationed by the barbecue in front of a primitive-coveted privacy wall, one vessel holds a burgundy-leaved bromeliad. Another holds a small palm, and the third is the focal point in a globe fountain near the lawn. Similarly shaped vessels in varying terra-cotta hold blue-green succulents and red-seeded clematis.



## Easy-care plants that add drama

You don't have to live in Southern California to grow exotic-looking water-thrifty specimens like those found in the Ocampo's garden and showcased here. We've included suggestions for hardier plants with similar forms that will do well where summer rains are common and winter temperatures dip very low.

### Canary Island Aeonium

(*Aeonium canariense*) This showy succulent is also known as velvet rose because of the fine fuzzy ends to its leaves. Its varieties are hardy only to 25 to 30 degrees F, though some desert gardeners in colder climates need to overwinter them indoors in containers. Or substitute a robust fuchsia (*Tomianthus arachnoides*) which also has fuzzy leaves on its leaves but survives down to -25 degrees F.

### 'Lapstock' Echeveria

(*Echeveria agavoides* 'Lapstock') The Ocampo grows numerous kinds of this showy succulent, which is hardy to around 15 to 20 degrees F. The variety shown here features solid periwinkle leaves and a cold-tolerant, we will be honest, even in our efforts to include 'Sanderling' and 'Fandango' Joncoria (*Echeveria*) which are hardy to 15 degrees F, and 'Lila' *Tomianthus* which survives to around -20 degrees F.

### 'Afterglow' Echeveria

(*Echeveria agavoides* 'Afterglow') This variety has a pinkish-orange post to its leaves. Cold tolerances include Purple Fuchsia and Purple Beauty *Tomianthus* hardy to -25 degrees F, and purple varieties of two rose *Tomianthus* species (*Tomianthus*) that tolerate much colder than roses, hardy to -30 degrees F.



### Octopus Agave

(*Agave octopus*) This desert plant is known for its long and narrow, arching, and thick leaves. Unlike many agaves, its leaves have fine, soft, and waxy, and a relatively soft spine at the end. It's hardy to 20 degrees F. Gold-leafed *Octopus* *Agave* (*Agave octopus*) has a striking form with sharp, spiky, narrow leaves that are hardy to -20 degrees F.

### 'Tropica' Cordia

(*Cordia alliodora* 'Tropica') Though most cordias are grown for their flowers, many have showy, tropical-looking leaves that range from deep green to deep red. Some are shrubby and some are tree-like. They're hardy to 5 degrees F. If you're well-situated in winter in colder areas, grow them in pots that you can move indoors, or consider 'Dawn' *Light* *Cordia* (*Cordia*) which has a striking red and yellow variegated foliage.

### 'Yellow Wave' New Zealand Flax

(*Phormium tenax* 'Yellow Wave') The sword-shaped leaves of New Zealand flax make a lush look but means actually to care for the *Phormium* and leaves it in a cold, dry, and dry, the side of the back. It's hardy to 20 degrees F. New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*) is a somewhat harder succulent than a cold-tolerant to 10 degrees F.

### Yellow Kangaroo Paw

(*Anacardium occidentale*) This every tree perennial forms succulent flowers or still 5-foot tall trees that rise above clumps of succulent leaves and is hardy to 40 degrees F. The small flowers are tubular, coral, and have yellow-green bracts and red. For a smaller look, try *Yucca* (*Yucca*) which is hardy to -25 degrees F. Most have red flowers but there is also a yellow one.

### Silver Yucca

(*Yucca arborescens*) This desert plant is known for its long and narrow, arching, and thick leaves. Unlike many agaves, its leaves have fine, soft, and waxy, and a relatively soft spine at the end. It's hardy to 20 degrees F. Gold-leafed *Octopus* *Agave* (*Agave octopus*) has a striking form with sharp, spiky, narrow leaves that are hardy to -20 degrees F.



## Stock, semi-custom, or custom?

The more a cabinet can be tailored to fit your kitchen, and the beefier its construction, the higher the price



semi-custom

**Good hardware** Distinguishing features and deeper pockets. Get any style you'd prefer or finish as long as it fits the manufacturer's catalog.

**Size** Widths for upper and lower usually change in 1-inch increments. Height is set by stock and drawers or cupboards, lower are fixed.

**Materials, hardware** Drawers are typically 1/2-inch MDF but can often be upgraded to plywood. Doors can be solid wood or MDF with thermofoil or wood veneer. Full 1/2-inch drawers glide on side-mounted rollers.

**Buy these items** Hardware, knobs or pulls. Hardware sales often take a few weeks for delivery.

**Cost** Starts at about \$50 per linear foot. Shows: Andersen does a white-shaded maple (Breadboard collection); wood cabinets.com



stock

**Good for** Tight budgets and fast turnarounds. Some require assembly. Limited selection of styles, configurations and finishes. **Size** Widths for upper and lower usually change in 3-inch increments. Height is set by stock.

**Materials, hardware** Drawers are typically 1/2-inch MDF (medium-density fiberboard) or particleboard and often have veneer. Doors are usually MDF covered with thermofoil or veneer. Drawers glide on full 1/2-inch heavy-duty metal and don't follow the drawer-to-drawer standard.

**Buy these items** Home centers and home builders, such as IKEA. Allow one to two weeks for delivery.

**Cost** Starts at \$35 per linear foot. Shows: KitchenAid white thermofoil or MDF. Andersen



custom

**Good for** Situations where a precise fit, more configuration options and fine detailing matter more than the price tag.

**Size** Built to any width or height you want and with any finish. Hardware is ordered specially that catches your fancy.

**Materials, hardware** Typically 1/2-inch hardwood veneer plywood for the carcass and door. Solid-wood tops are usually solid wood. Full 1/2-inch drawers glide on ball-bearing rollers and have a soft-close feature.

**Buy these items** Kitchen showrooms or local cabinetmakers. Allow eight to 12 weeks for domestic cabinet delivery or 14 to 16 weeks for imports. And eight weeks to six months for a custom-built.

**Cost** Starts at about \$150 per linear foot. Shows: WoodAid does a teak-grain plywood in Rosemary (cabinet.com)

## Pick your door type

Doors come in dozens of different styles, but they're all just variations of these basic forms

**RAISED PANEL** A frame surrounds a panel with beveled edges and a raised center. The elegant look evokes 18th-century Georgian-style woodwork. Shows: Some custom designers or carpenters. Andersen does a cherry with thermofoil panel. \$133 including 24 by 36-inch cabinet. [andersen.cabinets.com](http://andersen.cabinets.com)

**SLAB** Made from a single piece of MDF or plywood. This door type can be painted or covered with plastic or wood veneer. The look is streamlined and sleek. Shows: Some custom designers or carpenters. Andersen does a cherry veneer over plywood. \$120 including 36 by 30-inch cabinet. \$100 stock. [cabinet.com](http://cabinet.com)

**BEADBOARD PANEL** A stile and rail frame surrounds a center beadboard panel. Less formal than raised or flat panels. It has a cottage look. Shows: Some custom designers or carpenters. Andersen does a thermofoil over MDF. \$159 including 12 by 24-inch cabinet. [andersen.com](http://andersen.com)

**GLASS FRONT** Panels of glass take the place of solid panels. Shaded lights with wavy or clear glass (louver) have a traditional look. Frosted glass reflects any glass behind glass a more modern look. Shows: Custom designers or carpenters. Andersen does a thermofoil over MDF. \$159 including 12 by 24-inch cabinet. [andersen.com](http://andersen.com)

## For sale, gently used

If you're patient (or lucky) and willing to compromise on the fit, finish, or style, you can score a set of custom or semi-custom cabinets for less than the price of stock. Watch Craigslist, or visit sites that specialize in discounted home goods, such as one of Green DeCollisions' (New East Coast showrooms or Habitat for Humanity's national ReStore network). Give them a thorough inspection and keep your cash if you discover any of these problems: out-of-square carcasses, delaminating veneer, cracked door panels, and, unless you're willing to paint everything, major flaws in the finish. Missing or damaged hinges and drawer hardware are fairly easy to replace.

This like-new sale of semi-custom cabinets on display at Green DeCollisions recently sold for just \$5,000 (including the stone counter tops and all appliances). [greendeconnections.com](http://greendeconnections.com)

## Door (and drawer) mounting options

- 1 Full overlay** Doors completely cover the front of the cabinet, no face frame required. Uses cambolts, which are hidden when a door is shut.
- 2 Inset** Doors fit perfectly flush with the face frame. Typically need with butt hinges (shown), but also work with cup, lugs, and screw hinges.
- 3 Partial inset** Doors have a cabinet, or notch, cut into the outside edge so that only a thin lip overlaps the face frame. Often fitted with knife hinges (shown), but can also use cup or surface hinges. Unusual doors that cover a portion of the face frame are called partial overlay.



## Dressing up doors & drawers

Personalize your cabinets with special hardware. Here, stylish picks for latches, hinges, knobs, and pulls

**Box pull** The unfussy, simple finish on this solid brass pull appeals to a clean, dark-kitchen aesthetic. Lugs and polished pull, \$30 to \$50. [kitchenhardware.com](http://kitchenhardware.com)



**Oil pull** Oil rubbed bronze finish and a curved, modern design give this contemporary pull and eye hook a sophisticated look. Triple Hook Oil Pull, \$45 to \$55. [kitchenhardware.com](http://kitchenhardware.com)



**Latch** Finish operates in a latch, built-in or not, with a surface-mounted or recessed from the 1800s through the 1900s. Copper latch, \$25. [kitchenhardware.com](http://kitchenhardware.com)

**Strip hinge** This 6-inch hinge is made of solid brass and is a great choice for a kitchen with a classic or traditional look. Brass strip hinge, \$25 to \$30. [kitchenhardware.com](http://kitchenhardware.com)

**Strip hinge** Made for a kitchen door, this hinge is made of solid brass and is a great choice for a kitchen with a classic or traditional look. Brass strip hinge, \$25 to \$30. [kitchenhardware.com](http://kitchenhardware.com)

**Knob** A solid brass knob on a solid brass cup is a great choice for a kitchen with a classic or traditional look. Brass knob, \$25 to \$30. [kitchenhardware.com](http://kitchenhardware.com)



## Cabinetry rules of thumb

While cabinets can be configured in myriad ways, they're typically built and installed using well-established dimensions. Follow these guidelines during the planning stages to imagine how your kitchen will look and function.

### STANDARD MEASUREMENTS

1. Distance between countertop and upper cabinet: 18 inches
2. Upper cabinet depth: 12 inches
3. Lower cabinet depth: 24 inches
4. Countertop overhang: 1 1/2 to 2 inches
5. Countertop height: 36 inches
6. Kickplate: 4 inches high, 3 inches deep

Shown: Custom Cabinet Design, white painted, \$150 to \$200. [customcabinet.com](http://customcabinet.com)

## Choose your look

Doors and millwork details define a cabinet's style and the architectural period in which it came into vogue



**Victorian** In the late 1800s, a well-hung cupboard such as this one with supporting brackets and a window valance would have been paired with furniture like sideboards. Similar to classic, this Victorian style is a great choice for a classic kitchen.

### Colonial

An understated simplicity defines the first wave of this style. First, often the best proportion and is easy to maintain. Shown: Custom Kitchen, \$150 to \$200. [kitchenhardware.com](http://kitchenhardware.com)



### Modern

Full-on, sleek style doors create a simple, uniform facade that's the very essence of contemporary cabinet design. Shown: Custom Mid-Century Modern Kitchen, \$150 to \$200. [kitchenhardware.com](http://kitchenhardware.com)



### Arts and crafts

Popular in the early 20th century, this style is characterized by simple, clean lines and a focus on natural materials. Typically crafted of live oak. Shown: Custom Arts & Crafts Kitchen, \$150 to \$200. [kitchenhardware.com](http://kitchenhardware.com)

## Custom touches

Smart add-ons improve your kitchen's functionality and organization while enhancing its style

### Do your own design or rely on an expert?

Choosing cabinets is time-consuming, but designing an entire kitchen is downright difficult. Even with layout programs, such as Google SketchUp, that let you draft your own blueprints, having such a plan doesn't mean it can be executed. Or that you can afford it.

The easier way is to find a line of cabinets that you like and hire an expert, and then work with the in-house designers at a retail store. These pros use cabinet companies' software with exact dimensions, model numbers, and prices. They also have the experience to foresee and resolve any fit-or installation problems—before your cabinets are delivered.

Stores and manufacturers often provide their design services at no charge, but be sure to ask first. Likewise, ask whose measurements will be used: most cabinet companies insist on taking their own, on-site, before design is finalized, but a home-center designer may rely entirely on your measurements and leave you responsible if there are any errors.

#### how to hang them

To contractor Tom Silva shows how to install kitchen cabinets. At [diyhowto.com/home](http://diyhowto.com/home)



**+ window seat**  
A suite of 18-inch-deep by 24-inch-high custom specialty wood-cabinet refrigerators can slot atop a platform on the floor, offering a sweet spot from which to cheer and snack.  
Shown: Good American clear white thermacore panel (MSRP \$127 per linear foot; see [goodamerican.com](http://goodamerican.com))

**+ basket storage**  
In keeping with a rustic, country look, these pull-out wire baskets are just the thing for storing fruit, bread or vegetables.  
Shown: Custom basket and to Serrano's custom cabinet company with oak (\$300 per linear foot; see [serrano.com](http://serrano.com))



**+ slide-out spices**  
Hiding behind this painted plaster front, the pull-out shelf that keeps everything within arm's reach at the moment.  
Shown: Custom pull-out spice rack with plaster front in painted white (\$100 per linear foot; see [serrano.com](http://serrano.com))



**+ lighted soffits**  
New soffits to match your cabinets' look, stock instead. Here, a custom glass panel is turned on its side like a tray and drilled with holes for puck lights.  
Shown: 36-inch Tall Columns (see [www.thermador.com](http://www.thermador.com))  
Tremore (MSRP \$400 without lights; see [www.thermador.com](http://www.thermador.com))



**+ decorative corner post**  
Cabinet-makers don't have to be plain, straight edges. Here, a half post marks the transition between cabinets of different depths.  
Shown: Custom style "half post" (MSRP \$100; see [www.thermador.com](http://www.thermador.com))




**+ open shelves**  
A cabinet without doors is a smart way to display dishes and crockery. A glass rack on the bottom shelf offers a place for wine glasses or party gifts.  
Shown: Custom wall (see [www.thermador.com](http://www.thermador.com)) and maple with oak panel (MSRP \$1,300; see [www.thermador.com](http://www.thermador.com))



**+ work station**  
A kitchen desk provides a dedicated space for food prep, storage or party gifts. For smaller table sitting, the floor-to-ceiling height should be 26 to 30 inches.  
Shown: Serrano's Maple (see [www.serrano.com](http://www.serrano.com)) and 30-inch drawer (MSRP \$100; see [www.serrano.com](http://www.serrano.com))




**+ wine storage**  
Open cabinets offer a convenient place to store bottles. And be sure to install the rack away from heat-producing appliances, which can slowly cook your Cab. Shown: Custom wall (see [www.thermador.com](http://www.thermador.com)) and maple with oak panel (MSRP \$1,300; see [www.thermador.com](http://www.thermador.com))





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# askthisoldhouse

inside

PORCH POST

DRIVEWAY SEALERS

POISON IVY

MORE



**Q** I found these in my grandfather's toolbox. What are they and what were they used for? —MARCUS C. FOX, ALBANY, N.Y.

**A** When you have a strong, straight, well-combed, four-foot woodpecker or three-foot woodpecker that is 100 percent or better under the foot of a woodpecker, this is a very big help in getting the woodpecker to add weight to the neck and perform the same task as a woodpecker. —J. H. C. C. C.

**31**  
tips, tricks, and  
answers to  
your home  
improvement  
questions

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
JOSEPH C. C.



## Our cast of veteran experts

TOM SILVA  
General ContractorNORM ABRAM  
Master CarpenterRICHARD TRETHEWEY  
Plumbing and Heating ExpertROGER COOK  
Linoleum ContractorKEVIN O'CONNOR  
Roof

The concrete steps leading up to our front porch have no handrail, which is unsafe for our elderly mothers and other guests. Is there a way for me to add a railing inexpensively?

—MIKE AND LISA CHARITY, MONROE, COLO.



**Tom Silva replies:** According to code, you need a railing only if your porch is more than 30 inches above the ground. But even if the code says you don't need one, there will be many times when you'll appreciate having a secure handhold.

I recently encountered a similar situation to yours on a concrete-block stoop covered with pieces of blacktop. By the end of the day, it had a sturdy railing out of inexpensive preservative-treated lumber.

Using a grinder, I first cut square holes in the stone where I wanted to put the newel post, and chiseled down to remove one of the holes in the block underneath. I drilled some newspaper into the bottom of the hole to hold the new material in place as it set. After filling the hole partway with mortar, I pushed the post down as far as I could, then braced it plumb until the mortar hardened. Beside the bottom step, I dug a hole down below the frost line and set the lower newel post in concrete. For extra security, I drove a couple of stainless-steel spring spikes through the post and into the block under the steps.

Code requires that the top of the

Tom Silva sinks a newel post into a rock bed of mortar, the first step in building an invisible railing for his steps. Then, he braced his hands in sleepers after this photo was taken, an occupational-safety warning gloves when handling cement to protect your skin from burns.

railing be at least 34 inches above the front edge of each step, so I crammed each post accordingly and measured a handrail between them.

If the stoop deck had been wood, I'd have cut a hole in the deck and bolted the upper newel post against the beam and a post, if possible, using a steel bracket. If the stoop had been cast concrete, I'd probably have installed a factory-made steel railing, using expansion bolts.

## SEALERS FOR DRIVEWAYS

I've been told that using a water-based sealer on asphalt will cause more cracks. But the only way I've found to get an oil-based sealer is to hire a contractor to apply it for me. What should I do?

—JOSEPH MARASCO, CENTREVILLE, VA.

**Kevin O'Connor replies:** According to Ken Hansen, director of engineering at the National Asphalt Pavement Association, both types of sealer work equally well and neither one will cause cracking.

Hansen says that water-based driveway sealers are popular for homeowners because they're easy to use, clean up with soap and water, have low VOC levels, and are readily available at home centers. The main advantage of oil-based products is reduced prep time. "You don't have to be as meticulous about cleaning the driveway before you seal it," he says. As you discovered, you have to hire a contractor to get an oil-based sealer.

Whichever sealer you choose, Hansen says, the pavement has to be worn before and during the application to ensure good adhesion. And if you repair any holes or large cracks, he suggests waiting six months before sealing.

Continued on page 118

WHAT IS IT?



- A Fertilizer bag clip
- B Mousetrap
- C Veneer clamp
- D Dr...

FOR THE ANSWER, TURN PAGE 118

# He's a tough guy. But he cleans up after himself.



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Landscape Remedy  
Leland of Greensboro  
Landscape creates  
the root ball of a shrub  
that's ready to be divided.

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

### When is the best time to divide overgrown perennials and make new plants from them? —NANAKA TERESA TURNER, LEESBURG, VA

**Roger Cook replies:** Dividing perennials every three to six years is a great way to thin clump-forming varieties, like the daylily shown here (*Heisteria*), which blooms from late spring to late summer. This technique can also be used to control plant size, encourage growth, and multiply the number of specimens in a garden.

**Cost:** \$0  
**Time:** 30 minutes to 1 hour  
**Difficulty:** Easy for anyone  
today with a shovel and a soil  
knife or a pair of garden forks.

A good rule of thumb is to split apart spring- and summer-blooming perennials in late summer or before the fall frost. Fall bloomers are best divided in the spring so that they can devote their energy to growing roots and leaves.

Before dividing, water the mother plant well for a day or two before you dig it up, and wait for a cloudy day to do the actual digging—hot, sunny weather stresses plants. Then follow these steps and you'll be rewarded with new, more vigorous plants to share with friends or add to your garden.

#### STEP-BY-STEP Dividing perennials

##### 1. Dig up the plant

Use a digging tool, such as a shovel, to dig around the base of the plant, then set a spade or shovel to 12 inches from the center of the plant and push it down vertically into the soil. Work the shovel this way around the plant until you've formed a circle. Now flip the shovel blade under the root ball and pry it out of the ground.



##### 3. Make the cut

For smaller plants with six to 10 stems, place a soil knife between the separated stems and saw straight down through the thick, fleshy roots that form the crown. Continue cutting all the way through the soil ball. For larger, heavier root balls, use two garden forks placed back-to-back to pierce the crown of the crown. Push the forks apart until the clumps separate.

##### 2. Separate the stems

After picking out any thin or weak stems, gently separate the remaining healthy ones into clumps of three to five shoots. That number helps ensure that the plant will recover quickly after being divided. If the center looks dead compared with the outside edges, cut it away with a soil knife and leave the outside edges.



##### 4. Tease and plant

Gently tease the roots out of the bottom and sides of each new clump with your fingers. Place dig the holes they should be 1 to 2 inches narrower and 2 to 3 inches wider than the original root ball. Plant each new ball, and backfill with soil mixed with a root-promoting fertilizer, watering as you go. Water every two or three days for the next couple of weeks to get them established.

# He's a tough guy. But you can see right through him.



Transparent Duct Tape.

To find out where to buy, go to  
[ScotchToughTape.com](http://ScotchToughTape.com)



To get rid of the pesky ivy vines that have invaded this pachysandra patch—without killing the pachysandra by poisoning the ivy leaves with a systemic herbicide

#### Q POISONING POISON IVY

We have a steep slope that's covered with pachysandra, but it's become infested with poison ivy. We've tried to pull out the ivy, but without much success. Is there any other way to get rid of it without killing everything else?

—GARY ELLER, TARPPOIN, KY

**Roger Cook replies:** If you were dealing with just a couple of poison ivy plants, I'd recommend digging them out with a shovel—poison ivy can regrow from any broken root left behind. But I think your ivy problem is too extensive for digging.

The best solution I've found is to treat the ivy with a systemic herbicide, such as Roundup, which contains glyphosate. The chemical is absorbed through the leaves and kills the entire plant, including the roots. And the best time to apply it is early July through the end of September.

Unfortunately, glyphosate can't tell the difference between good plants—your pachysandra—and bad ones; it will kill them both if you just spray it over the entire area. So attach a pumpbrush to an old broom handle and "paint" the herbicide on the ivy leaves. Or you could use a Weed Wiper (ronseal.com), which is basically a long tube with a sponge applicator at one end. Simply fill the tube with herbicide and dab it on.

Poison ivy grows taller than pachysandra, so it will be fairly easy to target. Wear

long pants, long-sleeve shirts, and rubber boots and gloves to protect yourself from the ivy and the chemical. Give the stuff a week to work, then go back and treat any plants that haven't wilted.

You'll probably have to do the same thing next summer because poison ivy is a hard plant to kill. But once you have the situation under control, keep a sharp eye out for any new seedlings and make sure to dig them up right away.



#### D

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#### Q NOISY TOILET

Why does my toilet constantly making hissing sounds? Is there any way to make it stop?

—KICHETTE MAMBOGAT, BOARDWALK, ISOLHOUSE.COM/NOISE

**Richard Trethewey replies:** Your toilet is trying to tell you something. If it's making noises when it's just sitting there unused, I'd suspect a slow leak at the bottom of the tank. This would dribble a little water into the bowl until the level in the tank drops enough to cause the fill valve to add water—that's probably the "hiss" you're talking about.

The fix isn't difficult or expensive. Turn off the water leading up to the tank, then replace the flapper or tank ball in the bottom of the tank. You can find replacement parts at a hardware store or home center.

#### Q ERASING A WINDOW

As part of a bathroom redo, we're covering up a window. What's the best way to fill in the opening?

—BRIAN HARTY, LOWERTOWN, N.J. / WWW.SOTRIL.COM/NOISE

**Norm Abruzzo replies:** Once you've removed the window and all its trim, simply frame out the opening with short lengths of lumber that are the same width as the existing framing. It will look just like a short section of a regular stud wall.

Don't assume that new lumber will be the same size as the old. If the old wall is wider than a modern 2x6, cut a 2x6 down to size. Cut all the new studs to fit between the sill and the header. Nail one of these studs to the side of the exposed studs on both sides of the rough opening, then fasten the ends of the other 2x6 to the sill and header. Space these no more than 16 inches on center. Now take a piece of plywood that's the same thickness as the existing sheathing and nail it to the outside of the new framing.

After you install the open stud bays, cover the plywood's exterior face with 15-pound bubble's felt or house wrap.

## ask oldhouse

Tuck it under any existing felt at the top, and lap it over any felt at the sides and bottom. In each case, you want an overlap of at least 4 inches.

To diagnose the fact that there ever was an opening, you'll have to remove the existing siding courses next to the window and "sew in" the corners of new siding. Suggesting the joints in this way provides better weatherproofing, too, because siding joints with in any three courses should never directly line up. Nud up the new siding and paint or stain it to match.

#### Q THE HIGH COST OF OLD-HOUSE PARTS

Why are salvaged house parts so expensive? I have seen dead nails costing up to \$35 and windows for over \$200. At these prices, it would seem cheaper to buy new products.

—ABRAHAM W. MESSIAS, DEERFIELD, THEOLDHOUSE.COM/NOISE

**Tom Silva replies:** In some cases it is, but have you priced out windows lately? Seems to me that \$200 for a good window is a decent deal. And let's say you'd pay at least \$35 for a new door knob that matches the old one. Imagine you're restoring an old house and every door—except one—has door knobs that nobody makes anymore. Wouldn't you be glad to pay fairly well for one matching part? The products you find at a good salvage yard aren't postage-grade. Often they're things you just can't get new anymore, at any price.

send your questions to **ask oldhouse**

go to [TheOldHouse.com/askth](http://TheOldHouse.com/askth) or write to: Ask This Old House, This Old House magazine, 125 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020

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## Curb Appeal 101



## Tips to Prepare Your Lawn Before Winter

With the right equipment, you can take these steps now to ensure a lush lawn and beautiful flower beds come spring.

## Start Clean

Leaves left scattered for winter will smother the lawn. Recycle leaves by using your mower to create an natural mulch for existing gardens and planting beds. A multi-purpose unit, like Cub Cadet's 3-in-1 Chipper/Shredder/Vacuum, makes quick work of clearing your yard of small branches and other debris.

## Aerate &amp; Fertilize

Over time the soil under your lawn becomes compacted. Use an aerator to loosen it and help water and nutrients reach the roots. Then use a spreader to apply fertilizer, once in early fall and again before the first frost.

## Stock Up &amp; Stay Warm

Unless the winter can succumb to snow and wind, endangering you and your home. Cub Cadet's Log Splitter, with 27 tons of rim pressure, cuts cleanly through logs, so you can easily create a firewood supply for winter.

## Be Prepared

Don't get caught off-guard this year without adequate snow removal equipment. Cub Cadet offers a variety of single-stage and 2-stage high-performance snow throwers that will keep your driveway, sidewalk and walkways clear of the white stuff.

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TOOL  
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## HVLP paint sprayers

A whirling turbine creates the high-volume low-pressure air flow that turns paint into a fine mist, just what is needed for difficult-to-reach projects like shutters or eaves. Where brush strokes are another story, HVLPs can't match the output of a compressor-powered sprayer, but they waste far less paint as overspray. Painting contractor Rich O'Neil tested four 1-quart capacity models using exterior and interior acrylic latex paint. Here's what he had to say.

## CAMPBELL-HAUSFELD HV2002

Price: \$225

**Highlights:** Hose can be extended to 45 feet with optional accessories.

**My two cents:** Excellent quality of spray, responsive spray adjustment, and heavy-duty metal spray gun.

**Tool stats:** 10.4 cfm, 15 pounds (gun weight, 16 pounds empty), 35 feet hose. Sprays 1 quart of acrylic paint in 10 minutes.

**Spray patterns:** Round (from 1/8- to 3/4-inch diameter), horizontal and vertical (8 inches long, maximum). [chpower.com](http://chpower.com)



"Handled the thickest paint better than any I've used."



## EARLLEX SPRAY STATION HV3500

Price: \$134

**Highlights:** Generates 4 times more than the Graco.

**My two cents:** Did a good job spraying exterior acrylic lat.

**Tool stats:** 30 cfm, 15 pounds (gun weight, 16 pounds empty), 35 feet hose. Sprays 1 quart of acrylic paint in about 6 minutes.

**Spray patterns:** Round (from 1/8- to 3/4-inch diameter), horizontal and vertical (8 inches long, maximum). [earllex.com](http://earllex.com)

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**RICH O'NEIL**, owner of Masterwork Painting & Restoration, has 20 years of experience working on residential and commercial projects.

## GRACO SPRAY STATION HV2900USG

Price: \$300

**Highlights:** Extremes adjuster makes it easy to change spray width.

**My two cents:** "Essentially the same as a sprayer, so the barrel and performed equally as well."

**Tool stats:** 14 cfm, 7 pounds (gun weight, 1 pound empty), 13-foot hose. Sprays 1 quart of acrylic paint in about 5 minutes.

**Spray patterns:** Round (from 1/8- to 3/4-inch diameter), horizontal and vertical (8 inches long, maximum). [spraystation.com](http://spraystation.com)



## WAGNER CONTROL SPRAY DOUBLE DUTY MODEL 05JB052

Price: \$55

**Highlights:** Has no hose turbine drive built into the gun.

**My two cents:** The least powerful of the bunch required the most water to push out thicker acrylic paint.

**Tool stats:** 22 cfm, 3 pounds (gun weight, 1 pound empty). Sprays 1 quart of acrylic paint in about 6 minutes.

**Spray patterns:** Round (from 1/8- to 3/4-inch diameter), horizontal and vertical (12 inches long, maximum). [wagnerpaints.com](http://wagnerpaints.com)



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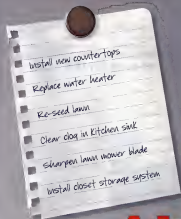
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**Location:** Palestine, Tex.  
**Contact:** Stacy Deem Sweet,  
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**The history:** This staid Queen Anne was built in 1885 for farmer James Ripley Cook, who would later become the founding vice president of the East Texas National Bank, an institution owned and operated to this day by local investors in the northeastern Texas town. Cook lived here until his death in 1933. The house was sold several years later and eventually served as a nursing home before falling into neglect. In the 1980s, a distant relative of Cook's bought it, and it remained in his family until 2007, when it was sold to an out-of-town owner who is now looking to sell.

**Why save it?** The four-bedroom, one-bath house on five wooded acres has plenty of original details, including an elaborate two-tiered front porch, stained-glass windows, arched windows, doors, and millwork. **What it needs:** Besides requiring new wiring, plumbing, and HVAC, the house is missing a bathtub. And the kitchen was in a recently removed addition so you'll need to find space for a new one. Do all that, patch the plaster, and keep up the millwork, though, and you'll have yourself a fine old home that you can bank on for years to come. —KATHY FARMGLAZ



1. The 3,422-square-foot Queen Anne has an apartment with singles only about a decade old. 2. The full-length front porch offers views of the surrounding acreage. 3. A close-up of the turned posts and ginger bread trim. 4. A porch bustletrade swirling inspiration in a bright bedroom with original windows and casework.

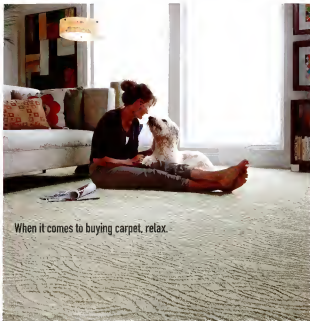
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